

Follow these steps when reading academic texts

Before reading

Step 1: Purpose of reading

Why do you have to read this text? Look in your course description and your syllabus; is it a key article, a primer, or something else?

Step 2: Pre-understanding

What do you already know about the topic of the text? Use YouTube og Google to get a basic understanding of the topic.

Step 3: Ask questions

A way to have greater determination when reading is e.g. by asking questions for the text before reading and answer them after reading.

When reading

Step 4: Order of reading

Consider in what order you read the text. If you start by reading the preface, headlines and conclusion you have an idea of important words and concepts of the text.

Step 5: Choose a strategy

Once you know the purpose for reading, your pre-understanding, and the important concepts of the text it is time to choose the right reading strategy. Could you e.g. skim some parts of the text while reading other parts thoroughly.

After reading

Step 6: Remember what you read

After you read it is important to remember the key concepts of the text.

You could do that by taking notes. Try to keep you notes short.

Step 7: Repetition

Repetition is a good way to remember what you read. You could use your study group for repetition.

You should also answer the questions you asked for the text before reading.

This exercise was made by the Central Study Counselling at SDU. Learn more on:
www.mitsdu.dk/studievejledning