Effective Reading Strategies

Before Reading
No matter the material that you’re reading, before you start, you can:
1. Plan ahead—set aside some time for reading.
2. Find a comfortable study space.
3. Read the chapter title and any section headings.
4. Read the first and last paragraphs.
5. Consider any discussion questions provided at the beginning or end of the text, or provided by the teacher.

While Reading
While reading, there are several options to help you focus your reading. You can:
1. Keep a goal or purpose in your mind of what you aim to get out of the reading
2. Try to form an opinion about your reading
3. Identify areas you want to learn more about or that may be confusing to you
4. Take notes as you read to summarize, paraphrase, or quote the information
5. Annotate any sections you find useful, have questions about, or connect with in the text

After Reading
Once you’ve finished reading and you’re ready to review, you can:
1. Answer discussion questions for the section.
2. Reflect on what you’d like to learn more about.
3. Ask your classmates about anything that you did not understand—they probably have questions about it too!
4. Reread your notes days or even weeks after you’ve gone over the material in class!

Did you know: without going back to review readings and notes, you will likely only remember 2-3% of the content after only one month?
**Review throughout the semester, not just before a big test!**