



How to Get the Most Out of Your Textbooks

How much \$\$ did you spend on your textbooks this semester?

Use your investment wisely by following these tips!

- Survey the assignment before you get started
- Read material before the lecture
- Find ways to apply textbook material to what you're learning in class
- Ask questions!
- Incorporate your learning style into your reading
- Answer questions provided in the textbook (even if you aren't required!)
- Use limited highlighting (no more than 10%)
- Take notes in the margins
- Look for main ideas and supporting details
- Use "SQ3R" or other method of textbook mastery
- Look for relationships between what you are reading and the class topic
- Reflect on what you have learned
- Quiz yourself
- Have group discussions about readings
- Use supplementary learning aids (such as CDs, web sites, etc.)

Common Mistakes Made When Reading Textbooks

- Highlight/underline too much
- Never review highlighted material
- Avoid taking notes
- "Seeing" the words, but not really reading them
- "Zoning Out"
- Concentrating too much on details
- Looking for only big themes
- Cramming (especially the night before a test)
- Skimming only