Active Reading Strategies

Reading a textbook is not like reading a novel; reading a novel is not like reading a newspaper. Much of the reading that you will do over the next few years will be linked to textbooks and assignments for college courses, so let’s assess your level of skill for this type of reading.

As you read each of the following statements, mark your responses using this key:

1= I seldom or never do this.
2= I occasionally do this, depending on the class.
3= I almost always or always do this.

_____ 1. I write notes in the margin of the text.
_____ 2. I underline or highlight important phrases and passages.
_____ 3. Before I begin reading, I glance through the chapter and note section headings.
_____ 4. I read the summary of the chapter before reading the chapter.
_____ 5. I take notes in my notebook for future study as I read.
_____ 6. I keep up with my reading assignments on a daily basis.
_____ 7. I re-read chapter summaries before tests.
_____ 8. I plan reading time in each class in my weekly schedule.
_____ 9. I review reading assignments and lecture notes after class to be certain that I understand everything.
_____ 10. If a chapter has study questions, I use them as a guide.

Scoring Key
25-30 points: You are a skilled reader!
20-24 points: You are good, but keep improving.
15-19 points: Some changes are needed.
10-14 points: Major improvements are needed, ask your instructor about some tips you could use to improve your skills.
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