EDCI 8970

Reading Strategies

- When you Xerox, copy the title page and the copyright page to save the bibliography info. If it's not there, write in on the article.
- Take notes while reading, including personal thoughts
- I type my notes to make sure that I get it
- Skim, skim, skim...especially when there is a heavy reading load
- Set goals with rewards
- I write notes, comments and thoughts in the margins. I also put sticky notes on pages/sections I find particularly interesting or important and write a key word on that sticky note so I can see from the outside whey it is there.
- I put texts and articles from courses into EndNote and mark the course in there as well, I tend to remember more about what I learned from the classes if I need books or articles on that topic, I can search by class or professor
- I rely heavily on literature reviews to get an overall picture of the readings
- I take notes on each chapter and try to write answers to any questions posed throughout the readings
- If time allows, I re-read important sections and always seem to pick up something new the 2nd time.
- I usually skim through the chapters before beginning to read
- After reading the book, I like to discuss with others who have read it, if that is an option. This helps to reinforce the reading as well as provide new insights
- I set aside specific time every day to read. It becomes a habit.
- I categorize the books and articles into key content areas for quick retrieval
- Designate a place of your own to keep reading notes filed away
- I do the bibliography APA style for any book or article I read
- I make a 3-ring binder for each paper I am collecting papers materials on to keep articles for different classes separate
- Have a few key words to look for when skimming so you don't read what you won't need
- Use the research notes section of EndNote to take notes and keep everything together
- Make goals – "I will read through Chapter 3 tonight, chapter 4, 5 and 6 tomorrow, etc."
- Think of questions about the book as I go along
- Look at the index and bibliographies for references
- Share reading with my husband – It helps me remember
- Enter some details – brief synopsis and citation information into EndNote
- Pull up and skim book reviews prior to reading
- Read in a particular chair – comfortable with good light
- Read with a pen handy, always underline important sections
- Fold down page corners of really important pages
- I like to highlight areas of interest and I sometimes write my thoughts in the margins

- As I read, I keep in mind what the author's main point is for the passage
- I like to read while I am on the treadmill or at my table lone in quiet
- I like to read at the library
- I write and ask questions in the margins in different pen colors
- Have you laptop/Internet out to further (and quickly) research something I do not understand
- Underline key quotes – make notes on lined paper of points I want to make in class
- Bullet point questions raised in the text – jot down answers
- Look for bolded words or bulleted facts
- Don't waste time with technical info that is not crucial to your understanding
- Read the 1st sentence of each paragraph as a measure to see if you should continue
- Write down questions you are trying to answer before reading
- Try to translate into more common phrasing
- Look to see if chapters have concluding paragraphs at the end of the chapter, then read those instead of the chapters
- After reading, type synopsis of the reading
- I listen to classical music while I read
- I read better in the morning
- Read the back cover for reviews
- Read the inside flap about the author
- If I am reading on a topic, I look for the index and navigate from there
- I prefer to read the whole book – either all or none!
- I was taught to read the first sentence of every paragraph and concentrate on the intro and conclusion, which is very helpful to me.
- I really like Larry's ideas of reading reviews before reading the book and putting notes in a file
- Read reference lists to find sources (titles and/or authors) that have written things that are of interest and knowingly relevant to the topic of the book. Read the pages/chapters these sources were cited on. Very helpful when looking for material for own research as well.
- Use glossary to find key words that are related to the title or topic of the book.
- Put down reference data then summarize the article on note cards.
- Read the book and highlight the parts that I like – then I transfer those quotes to a note card with page information
- Formulate widgets and marks to consistently be able to know the importance of a book note
- Underline sparingly
- Write disagreements in the margins
- Cross reference in the book when I know the author or article
- Develop an abbreviated vocabulary of high frequency words or concepts – For example, XFR for "Transfer"
- Color tabs for chapters and different color for "big" notes
- Lists of stuff to do and then line through completions

- Circle words I do not know, and then look up and write down a short definition near the word
- Use a pencil for notes
- For numbered items, put numbers in the margin

Challenges

- I need a way to keep track of data
- Having difficulty with EndNote
- Deciding what files to keep by subject matter
- Need to create a classification system
- When reading research articles, I tend to read and reread in order to grasp some of the scientific information which takes a lot of time
- I tend to be a weekend reader. Sometimes it is hard to do during the week.
- How do you deal with so much sitting to read? My back actually aches at times; my body gets numb! Sometimes it is hours and hours.
- I have an organizational concern – I can set up filing systems, but I am not sure how to organize both the research and the whole program.
- I am a slow reader, and I spend too much time reading. I feel that comprehension gets sacrificed.
- I get distracted in the actual process of doing research – How can I keep my focus?
- Sometimes it is hard to discuss things because I don't have all of the theory behind it – my Masters program had little to no theory
- It's hard to find the time do thoroughly read all I need to
- I have a problem determining what I need/must know and what I don't
- How do I know what type of article I need for different assignments, i.e. theory, practice, research, etc.
- For Research Qual I last semester and epistemology this semester, I can't skim and understand. How can I read philosophy without it taking all day?
- I have a hard time finding the time to read in-depth
- It's hard comprehending all the info presented – I usually zero in on certain areas and overlook others.
- I have a hard time finding stuff that I filed away.
- I struggle with time management issues.
- I have a hard time finding stuff online when I really don't know what journal to look in