Quick Tip of the Week

Did you know . . .

Changing the way you approach or read a text will allow you to take different things away from the text. Also, picking the text apart and labeling it so that you understand it better will help you retain the information you learn. If you ever have any questions about these strategies, ask your Instructor or come see us at the Advocacy Center, JH 308 for help.
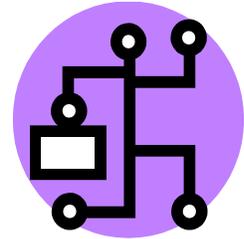
Strategy # 8: **Reading Inductively and Deductively**- To read inductively is to move from specifics to generalizations, to use details and examples for creating conclusions, to discover the thesis of the text, the controlling ideas. To read deductively is to begin with generalizations, the thesis, the main point(s) and then to read for purposes of acquiring evidence to test the thesis, determining its accuracy. As a simple rule of thumb, we begin new texts by reading inductively, using the text to give us clues on grasping the text's messages. At some point we construct a hypothesis for telling ourselves what this essay or story or poem or book chapter is about. That hypothesis may come as soon as we read the title; it may come when we finish reading the first paragraph or the first page or when we finish the text--or perhaps such an insight never arrives. But usually at some moment in the text there will be a shift in our reading: we grasp the author's message and then our reading process shifts, taking in new data from the text and plugging that new information into the schema or plan that the mind has created for this text (a creation based on discoveries while reading). With this inductive/deductive model in mind, try reading an unfamiliar text. As you are reading, occasionally think about which kind of reading you are doing: inductive or deductive?

Strategy # 14: **Annotating a Text**– This is a technique for marking a text so the structure and main points or illustrations are highlighted. A reader can develop a personalized annotation system unique to their individual reading habits. Here are a few annotation techniques that might prove beneficial:
- Circle the thesis or key themes
- Insert brackets around key supporting points
- Underline key details and examples
- Use marginal symbols to indicate personal feelings or insights about passage. For example:
    - N.B. for the Latin phrase nota bene, "mark well"; used to identify important, notable passages.
    - Question marks for passages that are confusing or vague.
    - Cf for "confer" points: noting instances when the marked passages connect with some other passage in this text or another text.

Whatever annotation system you devise, it's a good idea to keep it simple and flexible.

http://www.public.coe.edu/~wcenter/handouts_reading.php