

ACADEMIC READING

Reading is an essential part of university study. You read to grasp concepts, understand applications and to assist in the formation of your views or position on an issue or topic. You read in a variety of ways depending on your purpose and the format of the written material (e.g., study books, text books, journal articles, web sites).

DIFFERENT WAYS OF READING

1. **Skimming** is where you read to gain a general idea of the written material. When skimming you would not read every word, but look at the table of contents or section headings. You may follow up by reading first and last paragraphs, or key sections of the written material.
2. **Scanning** is where you look for specific information. Often you will be searching for specific material related to an assignment topic or scanning pages looking for mention of the topic.
3. **Detailed reading** is where you focus on the written material to gather specific facts or information, views or positions on a topic.
4. **Critical reading** is where you actively engage with the written material by questioning. This approach to reading is extremely important at university as you weigh an author's evidence, analyse strategies and methods, and comprehend applications.

BECOMING AN EFFICIENT READER

An efficient reader knows **where to look** and **how to look** to find the necessary information without wasting time. They will use all of the ways of reading described above to efficiently progress through course readings and texts.



