

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TEXTBOOKS

From AAP Service

Part 2

In the first installment of this article pointers were given on how you can use each text to its full benefit. It indicated the importance of a preliminary survey of the entire book, and gave tips on how to prepare class assignments.

QUESTION YOURSELF AS YOU READ

Pose questions to yourself as you move from paragraph to paragraph. By converting statements into questions, you challenge assumptions, opinions, and generalizations, and you keep yourself alert to the author's ideas. As you read your textbook, ask yourself, What, Why, How, Who, When.

What is the meaning of the title of this chapter? What is the sense of headings and sub-headings, the topic sentence and concluding remarks? What is the meaning of the words - especially of important terms that are italicized. What is the purpose of a photograph or table, a diagram or a graph?

Why has the author chosen a certain sequence of thought? Why does he elaborate upon a particular point so extensively?

How does the author achieve his effects? Does he use exaggeration, understatement, irony? Does he use examples and analogues? Are his graphs and pictures effective? If you are reading literature, what is the significance of the title, the point of view, the setting, the historical period, the tone, mood, language, and symbolism of the work?

For whom is the author writing? If he is writing a history text, is he biased? If he is dealing with psychology, does he belong to a special school of thought and does this attitude shape his ideas?

When was the book written? Have new developments rendered the author's opinion obsolete? Ask questions in class. Bring specific inquiries raised by your reading to class and pose them to the professor and to other students. Make certain that you are an active participant in class and that your reading plays an active part in your classroom work. **UNDERLINE AND MAKE MARGIN NOTES**

Mark your text freely and underline key statements. Bracket key phrases and put light check marks around significant points. After you have read a few paragraphs, return to your markings and underline the phrases and sentences that seem most important to you. Be careful to select only the main idea. If you underline judiciously, you will have a clear idea of the most important material you have read when you review.

Writing in the margins can also be helpful. Challenge the author directly in the margins of the text. Ask questions, disagree, modify statements, rephrase concepts in your own language. By actively engaging the author's ideas, you will read more alertly and you will remember what you have read.

Note taking is an individual matter and each student will have to decide upon the best technique for himself; but there is no question that to make your learning active and to retain what you have read, you must take notes. These notes will be very useful at a later time, reminding you of

your immediate reaction to specific passages in the textbook and reviving information that you have forgotten.

A journal or reading log proves useful. After you have read a section or a chapter, record your thoughts so that you will have a personal and active encounter with the textbook. You may want to keep an informal reading log, jotting down perceptions or expressing yourself creatively; you may want to be more formal and synopsise whole chapters in a brief paragraph. In any event, the transcription of your thoughts to paper will be of great help in reviewing and in writing subsequent essays or term papers.

K.K.K. Photography Club: The Art as an Expression of the Human Spirit

The objective of the Kircher Kamera Klub is to promote and encourage the art of photography as an expression of the human spirit. The aim of the club is to afford the University of Scranton students the opportunity and challenge to learn and to cultivate the art of photography.

Ours is a visual generation and a visual culture. In 1974, the entire world with its varied cultures and many tongued communication is a universal language of film. We hereby establish a club to learn to decline, conjugate, and to speak eloquently that language in the visual words of still photographs, the sentences of short subjects, the paragraphs of documentaries, and the compositions of feature length films. We appreciate that Photography is a science as well as an art: that it requires dedication, talent and disci-

plines. Thus, only interested students from all schools of the University are welcome to join with us in the exciting adventure of exploring the most popular channel of culture in our times.

To honor one of the most famous Jesuit Scientists in history and to afford interested students the opportunity to develop their creative talents in a Jesuit Liberal Arts University, the University of Scranton hereby founds the Kircher Kamera Klub. Three hundred and forty-three years after Athanasius Kircher, SJ, first flashed moving pictures on the walls of the Jesuit Curia in Rome to the astonishment of Roman nobility, we form a club in his honor to further the art of photography.

Watch the Bulletin Board in the Student Center for club information. All new members are welcome.

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