

Active Reading Strategies

Screen Number	Special Directives for Voiceover	Audio Script (Close Captioning)	Text Onscreen	Visuals Onscreen / Animation Effects	Learning Objective
1 (Title Screen)		Active Reading Strategies	Active Reading Strategies	A young woman with a book in each hand, lifting them as if they were weights.	
2		<p>What does it mean to read actively? Reading actively means to interact with the reading material. And the first step in active reading is something most people do naturally: preview.</p> <p>Previewing an article or a chapter in a textbook involves looking for stand out ideas. In general the things that stand out in a text are: Titles Headings Key Words</p> <p>If you skim, or glance over, a reading the first thing you will see is the title. What does the title suggest to you?</p> <p>Next, look for any headings. Headings often indicate important information about a section or portion of the reading.</p> <p>Finally, skim for key words. Key words may be words that repeat, or</p>	<p>Reading actively means interacting with the text.</p> <p>Previewing is the first step in active reading.</p> <p>Titles - <i>What does the title tell you about the reading?</i></p> <p>Headings - <i>Are there any headings that separate parts of the reading?</i></p> <p>Key Words - <i>Do you notice key words that repeat or are set apart from the rest of the text?</i></p> <p>Here are examples of titles in a textbook:</p> <p><i>Part One: Reading and Writing about Fiction</i> <i>Chapter 3: Characters: The People in Fiction</i></p> <p>Here are examples of headings and subheadings within a chapter of a textbook:</p> <p><i>Character Traits</i> <i>Types of Characters: Round and Flat</i></p> <p>Here are examples of boldfaced key words in a chapter:</p>	<p>Have the words appear to be on a computer screen with a blinking cursor. Show the text on screen until</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles • Headings • Key Words <p>(do not show italicized words yet – see below)</p> <p>Each of the three words will be a hyperlink that gets clicked (<i>automatically do the clicks on hyperlinks as the corresponding text is read from the audio scrip</i>) to reveal the words that are italicized.</p> <p>Then put the remaining text on screen. Zoom in or highlight the word Title. Add a photo of a literary character from a work of fiction. Perhaps use with the soldier/hero idea as requested in the next few screens).</p> <p>Zoom in or highlight the word Headings.</p> <p>Zoom in or highlight the words Key Words.</p>	<p>Use previewing strategies such as skimming titles, headings, and key words.</p> <p>Use previewing strategies such as skimming titles, headings, and key words.</p> <p>Use previewing strategies such as skimming titles, headings, and key words.</p>

words that are in bold or italics.

Previewing allows you to grasp the general sense of the reading.

round characters
stock characters
stereotypes
hero or heroine

skimming titles, headings, and key words.

3

A very helpful active reading strategy is using your prior knowledge to aid in understanding a reading. You might ask yourself, as you preview, what do I already know about this topic?

A HERO COMES HOME

“What do I know about this topic?”

Show a college student reading a newspaper with the headline, “A Hero Comes Home.”

Use prior knowledge to make sense of texts.

Thought Bubble: image of happy soldier hugging child/wife/grandparent

For example, if you open a magazine and see the title, “A Hero Comes Home,” what do you think the article will be about?

Your answer comes from your prior knowledge of who a hero is and why a hero might be coming home, and that will help you understand the general focus of the article.

4

Active reading is especially important **while** you are reading. Helpful strategies are: Prediction, Visualization, and Asking Questions.

While you read:

Predict
Visualize
Ask Questions

Have words written as if on a chalkboard.

Use prediction, visualization, and questioning to make sense of texts.

As you read, do you ever wonder what will happen next? This is a way of predicting. Predicting builds a bridge to the next idea and helps you make sense of the material you are reading.

For prediction, draw a bridge with the word prediction spanning across it. The anchors of the bridge are the word “idea”

Use prediction, visualization, and questioning to make sense of texts.

Visualization allows you to imagine what you are reading. Creating a

The old house looked abandoned and lonely.

For visualization, draw a picture of old, abandoned house.

Use prediction, visualization, and

mental picture can really bring ideas to life as you read.

questioning to make sense of texts.

Finally, asking questions keeps you focused on understanding the author's main point. Where is this going? Why did the author say that? What else do I need to know? These are the types of questions you could ask.

"Why did the house look lonely? Whose house was it?"

For asking questions, keep the picture of the house.

Use prediction, visualization, and questioning to make sense of texts.

The thing to remember about active reading is that you want to engage with the text. Predicting, visualizing, and asking questions help you do that.

5

Active reading may involve reading for specific information. If you want to know when someone was born, you scan the text for dates. If you want to know where someone lived, you scan the text for places.

Scan for specific information.

Pablo Picasso, one of the great painters of the 20th century, was born in 1881. Picasso spent his early life in the town of Malaga, Spain.

Have italicized words on the screen. Have a cursor moving across the words, as if a person is scanning them. When you reach the date and the town, change the color.

Use scanning to find stated information in texts.

Scanning can be a very helpful active reading strategy when studying and taking notes.

6

Sometimes, active reading involves understanding ideas that the author hasn't stated directly. This means that you may need to make inferences or draw conclusions. To make an inference or draw a conclusion, you state what seems likely given the information that the author provided.

Show a picture of a young man who is comically being cool – maybe primping in the mirror. Or, if that's too difficult to find, show a young man in the midst of a small crowd at a party, dancing perhaps.

Understand how to make inferences, draw conclusions, and summarize.

For example, suppose someone says this about a guy named Derek: "Everybody wants to hang out with

Derek. A party's not a party until Derek gets there!"

Keep same image above but add the text to give the image context re: inference.

Understand how to make inferences, draw conclusions, and

*Derek. A party's not a party until
Derek gets there!"*

summarize.

From this description, you can infer or make the conclusion that Derek is a fun person who is very popular.

7

Have you ever described a movie to a friend? If so, then you've used an active reading strategy. Summarizing, or saying in a few words what a reading is about, is a way to be sure that you understand the key points.

A summary recaps the key points in a reading.

Have the words appear on the screen at intervals.

Understand how to make inferences, draw conclusions, and summarize.

Image: an orange being squeezed out into a glass to make orange juice.

You create a summary after you've finished a reading. It's like a recap of the highlights. Just as you do not tell your friend every detail from a movie, you do not summarize every detail in the reading: just the key ideas.

Summarizing is an active reading strategy that occurs after you've finished reading.

Insert an iChat conversation or two friends chatting with speech bubbles. Or, just use an image with crime scene tape or something that shows it's a caper/crime story.

You: Oh, I really want to see that film!
Friend: What's it about?
You: It's about a woman who witnesses a crime and is afraid that the key suspect is actually someone she loves. She must decide whether to say nothing or tell the police what she knows.

8

Active reading occurs at every stage of the reading process.

Before reading....

- Skim for title, headings, and key words.

Before reading, skim for titles, headings, and key words.

Words appear on the screen as they are being read. Each new line appears and the previous line fades from view.

While reading...

While reading...

- use your prior knowledge to understand new ideas.
- predict, visualize, and ask questions to stay focused.
- scan for information to

- Use prior knowledge
- Predict, visualize and ask questions
- Scan for stated information
- Make inferences and draw conclusions

A young woman with a book in each of her hands, lifting them as if they were weights. (same as screen 1)

Thought bubble: "Wow! Active reading has really made me a stronger!"

Identify steps and techniques used in active reading.

support your predictions
and to answer your
questions.

- make inferences and draw conclusions as you read.

After reading, take a few minutes to summarize the key ideas.

These active reading strategies will keep you focused and clear about the information you read.

After reading...

- Summarize key idea