
Student Success \ Math & Physics and Biology

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Reading Strategy for Biology Textbooks

STEP 1: QUICKLY SCAN THE CHAPTER TO LOCATE

- Unfamiliar words (Look them up in a dictionary).
- Bold or italic words.
- This will save you lots of time when you start reading the chapter.

STEP 2: IDENTIFY MAIN CONCEPTS TO BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION

- Read the introduction and summary sections; these summarize important key concepts.

STEP 3: QUICKLY SURVEY CHAPTER BEFORE READING

- Title, headings, subheadings, and sections.
- Diagrams, graphs, tables, etc. (see handout).
- Questions at end of chapter (helps give you focus and goals as you read).

STEP 4: BEGIN READING THE CHAPTER...

ALSO

Research articles:

- These often have a good abstract, introduction and summary, however you should still read through the article for complete understanding of topic.