



MSLAW Academic Support

Successful Strategies for Reading Effectively

- Read carefully. Be sure you are alert, engaged, and in an environment that's quiet, lacks distractions, and is conducive to learning.
- Digest what you've read periodically, particularly if the reading is dense. Do you understand what you've just read? Stop and think about the reading, and process the information so that you understand it and develop a fluency in it.
- Highlight important concepts or make notes to yourself in the margins. You've got to make it as easy on yourself as possible to go back to your reading in class and as you're culling the most important information from your reading to create your outlines or review for exams.
- Actively process the information you're reading. After you're finished, write about what you've just read. Does your recount make sense? If your wording is poorly expressed on paper, it's likely that your understanding of the material is likewise poor. If it's written clearly, is it phrased in a way that will make sense to you down the line—even weeks or months away, when you're reviewing for exams? Make sure you have a fluency of the material.
- Recognize that reading may take you longer than you're accustomed to, or that you may have to re-read the text (or the cases) more than once. This is perfectly normal, particularly when you're just starting law school.

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