Effective readers are active and constructive because they:

- Have a purpose in mind as they read
- Connect the new to what they know
- Differentiate the most important from the less important
- Predict and/or develop questions and look for answers
- Dare to read critically

Effective readers use strategies

- **Before Reading**
  - Get rid of distractions
  - Break into manageable chunks
  - Set a purpose
    - *Why am I reading this?* (For class discussion, paper ideas, overview, details, etc.)
  - Preview the text
    - *Read title/subtitles, skim overview or intro & conclusion plus any study questions or vocabulary*
  - Activate prior knowledge by asking
    - *What is this text about?*
    - *What do I already know about this topic?*
  - Predict

- **During Reading**
  - Consider reading rate & adjust according to purpose
  - Ask and predict in order to monitor comprehension
    - *Try turning subheadings into questions*
    - *What are the author’s main topics and subtopics?*
    - *What are the supporting details?*
    - *What is the underlying pattern of organization?*
    - *What is the critical vocabulary?*
  - Try summarizing each section after reading if material is dense
  - Highlight, underline, and/or take notes (outline, tree/bubble, Cornell…)
  - Write down questions you have & possible paper or test questions
  - Take breaks if reading for more than ½-1 hour

- **After Reading**
  - Write a short summary (few paragraphs to 2 pages)
  - Possibly make flashcards of key concepts and terms
  - Review author’s credibility, reliability and evidence cited
  - Review your perspective/opinion
READING RATES:

SKIMMING = fast paced reading used to get the general idea (read 1st & last paragraphs or intro & conclusion, then read 1st and last sentence of each paragraph)

SCANNING = fast paced reading used to look for a specific item or piece of information (remember to use index/table of contents!)

RAPID READING = used to determine main idea and a few details or when reviewing familiar material

NORMAL READING RATE = used for identifying details, important relationships, finding answers to questions or solving problems

STUDY READING RATE = used to master, analyze or evaluate information or ideas