

## **Active Reading Skills for Comprehension**

When you are reading for this course, you need to be actively involved with the text. It's a waste of your time to just passively read. Passive reading is acceptable if you are reading a book, magazine or newspaper for fun, not for learning new academic material.

### **1. Unplug Yourself.**

Turn off the T.V., radio, ipod, etc. Contrary to popular belief, you cannot multitask effectively when you are learning new material that requires deeper thinking skills.

### **2. Take Notes.**

This will help keep your attention focused on what is most important. It is easy to let your mind wander if you don't have something to keep you focused.

### **3. Focus on terms and visuals.**

**A. Terms:** Focus on key words, people, places and other vocabulary.

- Use your chapter study guide, section review questions, and text reading guide if provided.
- Look at terms or boldfaced words BEFORE you read.
- As you read, be aware of what they mean and their context to the rest of the section.
- If you don't know the meaning of a word.....LOOK IT UP!!!

**B. Visuals:** Focus on headings, subheadings, maps, graphs, and other visuals

- These are meant to organize the content for your benefit.
- These items help enhance what the text is saying.
- Look at any maps, pictures/captions, political cartoons, etc.
- These make great quiz and test questions!!!

### **4. Think About It!! Think About It Some More!!**

- Before and as you read, think of questions related to the content.
- Try turning the boldface headings into questions you think the section should answer.

**Is all of this more work? Absolutely, but you are developing skills that will last a lifetime.**