



READ FOR A REASON

Understanding why you are reading helps you read more effectively.



THE IDEA

Experts read differently because they have a purpose.

Knowing why you are reading helps you choose the right strategies, focus on the most important information and understand the text more deeply.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Make the purpose for reading explicit.

Discuss which strategy is most useful and why.

Model how your purpose affects the way you read.

Give students opportunities to set their own purpose and explain their choice of strategy.

1

IDENTIFY THE PURPOSE

Before reading, ask:
Why am I reading this text?
The purpose will guide your reading.

Common purposes

- to find information
- to understand a process
- to learn a concept
- to compare different ideas
- to evaluate an argument
- to solve a problem

2

CHOOSE A STRATEGY

Use a reading strategy that matches your purpose.



Purpose	Useful strategies
Find key information	Skim, scan, look for headings and key words
Understand a process	Read carefully, follow the sequence, use diagrams
Learn a concept	Read in detail, look for definitions and examples
Compare ideas	Look for similarities and differences
Evaluate an argument	Identify the evidence and the writer's view
Solve a problem	Read carefully, highlight relevant information, check your understanding

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CHECK AND REFLECT

After reading, ask:
Did I achieve my purpose?
What did I learn?
Do I need to read it again in a different way?

- ✓ I found the information I needed.
- ✓ I understand the main ideas.
- ✓ I can explain what I have learned.



EAL UPGRADE

Pre-teach key vocabulary related to the reading purpose (e.g. compare, evaluate, solution).



TRY IT TOMORROW

Give students a short text and three different purposes. Ask them to choose a purpose and explain how it changes their reading.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

"Why are we reading this?"
"What do we need to find out?"
"Which parts are most useful for our purpose?"
"Did this text help you? Why?"