

Secondary School Students Describe Their Informational Text Reading and Study Approach

Prompt: Many secondary school students lack a productive process for reading and studying informational text. Write a detailed analysis of the process you go through to tackle a challenging text reading assignment such as a social studies chapter.

Homework Reading: Suggestions and Tips

(Kyle, a U.S.-born GATE student, 7th grade)

Hi! I'm Kyle and I'm here to give you some suggestions on how to read your social studies or science book. When I read my social studies chapter, I read it just like one of my fun novels, like Harry Potter. But I like to do a couple of things differently. I like to do my reading in a special place, depending on what kind of reading it is. If it is my social studies or science reading, I do it in the kitchen. If it is my fun reading, I do it in bed.

When I'm starting to read a chapter, I just sit down and open the book up and start from the top. I read every line once a little slowly, but if it's too long, I skip to a new paragraph. If it's a long chapter, I will take a break halfway. I also look for colored or italicized words because they usually start key points in the chapter. If there's a difficult word I don't know, I try to pronounce it and maybe look it up. Or I might just skip it so I can finish faster. If it's really hard, like the Roman government, I just wait for class and my teacher will go over it. Finally, I like to take notes on the chapter, only if there's a test coming up or if my teacher said it would be a good idea. I hope these suggestions help you with the challenges of reading your textbook this year.

My Academic Reading Habits

(Stanley, born in Hong Kong, 4 years in the U.S., 11th grade)

If I need to read a long story, I usually stay in my bedroom to read it. And I will turn on the soft music when I am reading. One reason I turn on the radio is I will fall on sleep when it is so quiet. Then I start the first page, and I look up those new words in my Chinese dictionary. When I am reading a story, I like to drink a cup of coffee. Because I like to open mouth reading, coffee can keep my mouth wet. Many people don't like to open mouth reading. Because it takes a long time. But I think when you open your reading, it will help your reading skill and more understanding. That is my academic reading habits. I know I don't have good reading habits in someone's point of view. But that is good for me, and I will prove my reading skill when I go to State University.