STUDYING SCIENCE IS UNIQUE

Reading science books is different than reading other types of books. Science books try to make their language and ideas very clear. You may think that reading science books would be easier, but they present a different challenge. Scientific texts can become much more manageable if you approach them with the specific strategies presented in this brochure. If you need help developing reading or study skills stop by Learning Services.

WHAT OUR TUTORS DO AND DON'T AND CAN AND WON'T

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don't</th>
<th>Do your homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help you understand your assignment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit or proofread your papers or writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help you edit your own papers or writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutor a subject they are not trained for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with general study skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do your homework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help you over the course of the semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help you prepare for a quiz, test, or exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An easy to use guide to success
HOW TO UNDERSTAND SCIENCE TEXTBOOKS

- Pay attention to vocabulary
- Take good notes
- Ask the right questions
- Make connections
- Take it slow

Pay Attention to Vocabulary

When you read science materials, it is important to look up and write down the meaning of any words you are not familiar with. Make sure you use the scientific meaning. You may wish to use index cards so you can refer back to them before tests.

Take good notes

Science is based on facts and concepts. The facts usually build from one to the next. Summarize the concepts in your own words so you have a clear understanding of the material. It is easiest to summarize science material by section rather than by chapter.

Ask the right questions

Since the purpose of most science texts is to explain natural phenomena or the results of observations or experiments, they usually indicate why the information they provide is important. If the text describes an experiment or procedure, then the following questions can help you better understand the materials:

- What happens/happened?
- How does/did it happen?
- Why does/did it happen?
- Why is this important?

Some science texts describe. In texts that describe or explain, the following questions will be more helpful:

- What is X?
- What does X do?
- How does it do it?
- Why is it important?

Notice that both sets of questions use the same key question words: what, how, and why. Also, both sets of questions include, “Why is it important?” The information in science texts exist in relationship to other things; this is called the context. If you understand these relationships, you will understand your science reading.

Make Connections

Stop and think about how all the material presented fits together. Think about how it relates to other material in the class, how it fits with the lab, or how it effects the world around you.

Take It Slow

When you are not sure if you understand what you are reading, you probably don’t. Slow down. Read one sentence or one phrase at a time. If you get confused, stop and go back to a point that you do understand and read from that point. Take your time, read slowly, and think about what you read, take notes, and understand what you read so you only have to read it once!

Make a tutoring appointment online at www.avila.edu/ls or call 816-501-3666.