



Using Reading Strategies to Learn from Academic Textbooks

Triple Highlighting Strategy

Triple-highlighting is an annotation method that has been successfully used in college classes and the military. In fact, Air Force trainees using triple highlighting were able to score at least 95 percent on a 100-question, closed-book test.

To use this strategy, you will need three highlighters: one yellow, one blue, and one pink. All highlighting is done in your book.

Here is how the strategy works:

1. When you read your assigned chapter, highlight in yellow only the information in your book that you don't already know.
2. During class lecture, highlight in your book in blue the important points emphasized by instructor during the lecture. Highlight in blue in your textbook anything that comes from your instructor (Power Points, outlines, study guides). If it comes from your instructor, it will be highlighted in blue in your textbook.
3. Highlight in pink in your book the answers to answer questions at the beginning or end of the chapter. These answers are what the author has determined important.
4. Review the pages in your book that you have highlighted. Triple highlighted information is most important and most likely to be on your test. Information that is doubled highlighted is also important to study and will probably be on the test.
5. Place double and triple highlighted information on index cards.
6. Study everything on the index cards that is highlighted with two or three colors because you most likely have the important information double or triple highlighted for the test.
7. To study most effectively, break your study time into 20 minute sessions. Then, take a three to five minute break, and study for another 20 minutes. Continue to do this four times in a row. After this study time, take a 25 minute break and begin the studying again.