Academic Reading Center

LRC Room 215  saddleback.edu/la/rl  949-582-4539

Reading courses offered through Saddleback College:

- **ENGLISH 332-333** (0.5 units)
  Improve comprehensive reading skills for ESL students

- **ENGLISH 340** (3 units)
  Prepare for college level reading by improving vocabulary, comprehension, study skills, & writing.

  **AA degree**

- **ENGLISH 345** (3 units)
  Build fundamental reading skills for college and life.

- **ENGLISH 180** (3 units)
  Improve reading speed, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, & critical analysis.

  **CSU Transferable**

- **ENGLISH 190** (3 units)
  Focus on reading, memory, note-taking, test-taking, & listening skills.

  **CSU Transferable**

- **ENGLISH 70** (3 units)
  Focus on critical reading, logic, and argumentation; equivalent to ENG 1B

  **UC, CSU Transferable**

- **ENGLISH 221-222** (1 unit)
  Reading improvement in the areas of human anatomy and physiology.

  Created by J. Vogel

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Thriving in College with the Skill of Annotation

Annotating a reading passage - writing notes on the pages of the reading selection itself - is one strategy you can use to become actively involved in what you’re reading (whatever the course). Although annotating may seem to take more time, it will benefit you in at least two ways. First, notes written within the text and margins can serve to remind you of important ideas. Second, you develop active rather than passive reading skills. Here are some suggestions for annotating a text:

- **Write notes** in the margin or at the top or bottom of the page. For example, jot main ideas, key summary words or phrases next to their respective paragraphs (This is also the best way to record your own reflections or beliefs about the topic).

- **Underline or highlight** key words or phrases. Remembering this important information will help you answer test questions.

- **Use stars or asterisks** in the margin to emphasize the most important ideas.

- **Pose questions** in the margins to express your difference of opinion about the author’s message, or put a question mark next to anything you don’t understand.

- **Circle unfamiliar vocabulary words**, and then go back after you’ve read to see if you can figure out what they mean.

- **Use a personal symbol** (Yes!, Right!) next to anything that seems to target the audience.

- **Annotating Skills cont...**

  **Number, in order, each step** if the passage is describing a process, needed to complete the process.

  **Put a check by cause/effect, reasons, or transitions.** They may help you identify the organizational pattern or structure.

  **Put an E by evidence, examples, specific details, quotations, etc.** used to support the main idea.

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Did you know...

people who read on a daily basis are more likely to get ahead when it comes to their careers and life in general?

**Harvard School of Sociology**

"A common quality I see of successful people is that they are voracious readers."

-Jeff Bezos, Founder of Amazon

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Are you an active reader?

☐ Know your purpose
☐ Preview the material
☐ Connect new text to prior knowledge
☐ Pose questions, then read for answers
☐ Visualize what you read
☐ Use graphics to aid understanding
☐ Reread
☐ Talk it out
☐ Underline and high-light
☐ Take notes
☐ Review and recall

The Basics of Reading Faster

1. **Prioritize Your Reading**
Create three piles for your reading materials: important, moderately important, and least important. Next, read the material in order of importance.

2. **Skim Material First for Main Ideas**
Scan the table of contents and the first and last sentences of each paragraph. You’ll improve your reading speed and comprehension if you understand a book’s structure. This will also help you know which parts to skim & which parts to read carefully.

3. **Use a Flexible Reading Speed**
Some reading material must be read slowly and carefully: legal contracts, mathematical equations, and poetry are a few examples. Other reading material can be read at much faster speeds: newspapers, magazines, and novels. Adjust your reading speed based on your purpose and the type of material you are reading.

The Most Interesting Websites You’ll Want to Read Again and Again

1. Want to know anything about any movie? [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)
2. Have an interest in business? [www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com)
3. Why does this work like that? [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)
4. What does that word mean? [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)
5. What if I want to read about interesting world topics? [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com)
6. Is that rumor or myth really true? [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
7. Where can I find in-depth sports reporting? [www.grantland.com](http://www.grantland.com)

Resources you’ll find in the Academic Reading Center:

*Professors dedicated to improving all facets of your reading and learning with special focus points on study skills, note-taking, test taking, and time management.

*Textual materials for all reading levels such as dictionaries, vocabulary study guides, test prep guides, a student library, plus a myriad of other resources.

*Computer software that will enhance your reading fluency, speed, vocabulary, & comprehension.

*Reading materials that can be adapted to your course syllabi in nearly any subject.

What students are saying about the Reading courses at Saddleback College:

“I enjoyed the class discussions. I normally do not read on a regular basis so I am surprised that I was able to finish reading two books in a semester. This class inspired me to start my summer reading.”

“I enjoyed learning about the different types of skills and attitudes one must obtain in order to become a critical thinker. This helped me acknowledge what skills I have and what I still need to work on so that I can become a critical thinker.”

“I enjoyed that the teacher connected the lessons with real-world application. It made the class useful and more engaging.”

“I enjoyed that we constantly worked to improve and were able to see the results of our efforts each week.”

“I enjoyed the class because the material was well-organized, straight forward, and the instructor delivered the pedagogy in a refreshing, upbeat manner.”

“I really enjoyed this class. It gives you the opportunity to use your brain in a way that I found beneficial. I would definitely recommend it to other students.”

“The ability to span the golden nuggets of information through reading is a valuable skill every college student should learn.”

“I personally enjoyed the group activities. This allowed for critical thinking within groups. I was able to hear others opinions on interesting topics, which in turn opened my eyes to new ideas.”

“I mostly enjoyed the reading that I did during this class. I liked the novel that I read. As English language is my second language, I enjoyed the vocabulary words that I learned through the class. I benefited a lot from the reading techniques and the organization of the essays.”

“I learned a lot of things, not only about reading, I also learned a lot that related to writing, thinking & studying.”