A Guide to Reading Comprehension

What Is Reading Comprehension?
The ability to understand and process text while connecting new material to what readers may already know.

What Strategies Can Improve Reading Comprehension?

1. **Break It Up**
   a. Try to find ways to break up the material into smaller sections (e.g., one chapter at a time) so that the reading assignment feels less overwhelming.

2. **Highlight/Take Notes**
   a. Highlight phrases or words that you either find important or confusing.
      Once you finish reading, try to determine the meanings of words or phrases you might have had a difficult time making sense of.
   b. Take notes on scrap paper (e.g., write down questions, brief summaries, comments, etc.)

3. **Connect Material**
   a. As you read, try to consider how what you are reading connects to information you might already know about the subject you are exploring.
      By doing this, you may also find meaning and value in what you are reading.

4. **Visualize**
   a. While reading, try to create mental pictures of information, characters, and settings in your head.

5. **Identify**
   a. Try to determine what the authors’ main idea might be. Consider their thesis, for example, and attempt to understand how their writing helps to support their ideas.

The following sources were used in the creation of this handout:

Purdue University. (2020, August 25). *10 strategies to improve your reading comprehension for college.*
https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/general-education/improve-reading-comprehension-college/

https://www.adlit.org/topics/comprehension/teach-seven-strategies-highly-effective-readers