

English 95

How to read difficult texts

(or how to get through college without flunking out)

- Read it slowly
- Read it twice.
- Read it aloud
- Takes notes on what you read.
- Mark the text (of course, only if you bought it!).
- Ask questions about the text in class.
- Take the text to a tutor for help.
- Discuss the text with a friend.
- Look up words you don't know in the dictionary.
- Come see your instructor for help.
- If it's boring, that's probably because you don't understand it. That's a clue to try the above list. Again.

How to write a good essay

(or how to pass this class)

- Take your time with your work. Each essay should take at least 4 hours to revise.
- Don't wait until the last minute. Plan ahead.
- Read the essay aloud. Proofread it!
- Takes notes on what we discuss in class. Apply these skills to your writing.
- Mark the essay. Be ready to revise it.
- Ask questions in class about writing the essay.
- Of course, come to class everyday, on time and prepared to work.
- Read through *The Everyday Writer*, especially the sections that apply to you.
- Take your essay to the Writing Center for help. Go early and often. Become a Regular.
- Discuss your essay with a friend.
- Come see your instructor for help.

If you are not improving as a reader or as a writer, ask yourself which of these techniques you are not trying. I promise you that you will improve if you try them. Students who do all of these **always** pass, and when they get to English 102, they almost always earn an A.