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.