

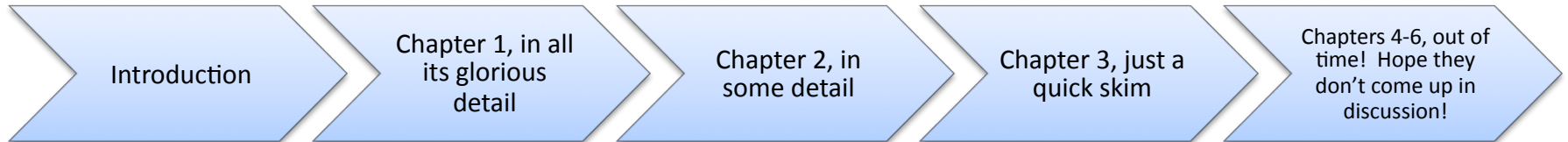
How to Read a Book in Grad School

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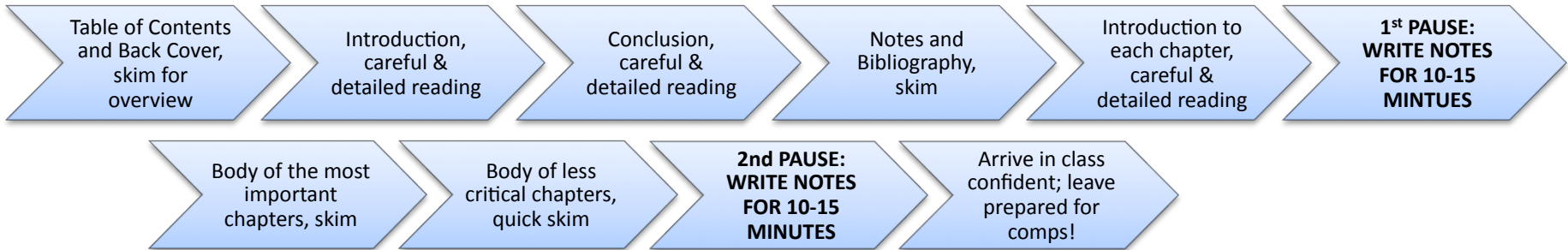
For more tips, see

web.calstatela.edu/faculty/cendy/histlinks.htm

The linear method – FLAWED



The “bookends” method – MORE EFFECTIVE



Questions for Notes Writing During the 1st Pause:

- What is the author's research question, and what is the author's thesis (i.e. the answer to that question)?
- Is the author's thesis or method surprising to you? Why or why not?
- How does this argument and method relate to other readings?
- What evidence will the author need to provide to prove the thesis?
- Which chapters are going to be the most important ones?

Questions for Notes Writing During the 2nd Pause:

- Did you accurately record the thesis during the 1st pause?
- Did the author support the thesis? If so, which chapters and which sources were the most effective or crucial? If not, what evidence or assumptions by the author were weak?
- How does this book relate to other works you've read? Does it confirm other readings? Does it contradict other readings?
- What avenues for new research does this book suggest?