

A Word About Highlighting

Most people highlight...

Many students highlight or underline information as they read. Their intention is to concentrate on this information later, after they have read everything.

These highlighted passages provide the page with pretty colors but usually do not get the attention they deserve. When you highlight or underline information, you are telling yourself, "Here is some important information. I'm not going to study it now, but I'll mark it so I can study it later if I have time."

Highlighting and underlining are usually just methods of procrastination. When you highlight something, you feel like you have done something with it, so you can move on.

How you should highlight...

If you are most comfortable with highlighting as a way to read your text, pay close attention to some of the highlighting tips listed below

1. Never highlight until you have read the entire paragraph.

After reading a paragraph or a section under a subheading in a text, decide what's the topic, main idea, and supporting details are. Then go back and highlight them.

3. Summarize in your own words

After you highlight in a paragraph, summarize the information in the margin in your own words. This will be helpful when you review the information later.

2. Select which words to highlight.

It's not necessary to highlight each word in an important sentence: highlight only the key words.

4. Review

Before you close the book, review your highlights. Can you glance at the highlighted key words and summarize the main ideas?

