

Highlighting Your Textbook Effectively

Highlighting

- Read the paragraph or selection first
- Use a highlighter that is not distracting to the reading process; pick the right color for you.
- Highlight important portions of the topic sentence
- BE ACCURATE—don't miss the point of the message by getting carried away.
- Use a consistent system—develop a system that works for you and stay consistent. Mark topic sentences in one color and details in another, distinguish between main ideas and supporting ideas, etc.
- Highlight as few words as possible—choose key words to mark
- Use headings to guide highlighting
- Does the highlighting make sense?
- Does it tell the most important idea in the passage?
- Does my highlighting tell what the passage is about?

Example:

When one is working toward **improving comprehension** of a textbook, **highlighting** could prove to be the tool of choice. Students who wish to use highlighting as a study tool should remember that **less is best**. When **too much** information is highlighted the **mind cannot decipher** what is **important** and what is not. Students should **highlight the information** that is **pertinent** to the **main idea of the passage and the topic**. Students need to **set a purpose** for highlighting, much like they set a purpose for reading a text. This **eliminates wasted time** and effort.

