

## Prereading

We preread shorter texts like articles, short stories, and chapters in a book.

### HOW TO PREREAD:

1. Read the main title and think or write about everything you know about the subject.
2. Read the introduction (or first paragraph if there is no introduction) and try to predict what the text is about.
3. Read the last paragraph or summary and predict the author's main argument.
4. Read the boldface headings (titles for sections of the reading selection) and think about what those sections may focus on or turn each heading into a question.
5. Read the first sentences of each paragraph and predict the main point.
6. Note any visual aids: graphs, charts, pictures, tables, maps. These often summarize important information for you.
7. Note any typographical aids: word in italics or boldface, pre-defined vocabulary. Why are these words important?
8. If available, read about the author. How does the author's point of view influence the text?
9. Read quickly any end-of-article or end-of-chapter material or questions.
10. Ask yourself questions: what do you expect to learn? What type of information is being presented?

### REASONS TO PREREAD:

1. To become familiar with the content and organization of a selection; to activate any prior knowledge you have about the subject.
2. To get a mental outline of what you are going to read, filling it in with ideas, facts and details when you do your serious reading.
3. To establish a purpose for reading – why is the author writing, what is s/he trying to get across to you, and why are you reading it?
4. To identify more important and less important sections of the text, helping you to decide when to read closely and when to skim during your serious reading.
5. To help you remember the main points – finding them during prereading and then again during serious reading will help you remember them later.
6. To get started on a long or difficult selection, which you otherwise may avoid.
7. To determine the difficulty and importance of the material so you can set up a realistic study schedule.
8. To build interest in what you are reading.

