The Strategic Reading Cycle

**Before You Read:**
- Preview the reading for 5 to 10 minutes:
  - Look at titles and words in bold. If there are no titles and bolded words, skip around and read a few phrases and sentences throughout the reading.
  - Identify one or two questions or topics that you hope to understand better by the time you finish reading (this may aid in focus).

**While You Read:**
- Focus on the reading for a limited amount of time (15-30 minutes)
- Read actively and push forward.
- Don't get too bogged down in the details-get the overall main idea.
- Watch for information that may answer questions that arose during your preview.
- Read to understand a concept better, not just to "complete the reading."

**After You Read:**
- Pull out a few main ideas.
- Jot down gist words in the margins to help you remember a main point or question for class discussion.
- Avoid writing too much; the notes you take on the reading should help you increase your understanding.
- Notes aren't always necessary. Pause to reflect and review.
- Reread any key section you think is needed!