Reading and Writing in College
Myths about Reading

- Read every word.
- One read is enough.
- Don’t skip passages.
- Machines help speed up reading.
- If I skim too fast, my comprehension will drop.
- There’s something wrong with my eyes!
Skimming for Main Ideas

Read chapter and section titles carefully—what clues do they give you about the selection?

Look for signal words: cause, effect, pros, cons, etc.

Textbook authors want you to recognize the important concepts.

- Major headings and subheadings
- Italicized words
- Lists
- Repetition
Reading Strategies

SQ3R

Survey — look over info critically; anticipate arguments
Questions — turn headings into questions
Read — engage yourself and answer questions
Recall (Spend more time on this)
   Mentally visualize the high points of the text.
Review
   See how much you actually understand and create a whole picture.
Other Tips

- Textbooks are designed for easy access.
- Some classes require you to read the entire selection.
- Reading the powerpoints isn’t enough!
- Reading is homework, so schedule time for it.
Why Write?

- The most effective way to see if students understand concepts.
- Improves your understanding of the text.
- Post-college life will require good writing skills.
Essays: Start Early

- Understand the assignment.
- Brainstorm.
- Outline.
- Draft.
- Edit for clarity.
- Edit for grammar.
Other Writing Tips

- Just because your major isn’t English doesn’t mean you can’t be a good writer.
- Find a friend, bounce ideas.
- Don’t worry about the length—find a topic you enjoy.
- Make the most of it.
- Be creative—college writing shouldn’t be boring!