

4-4: Reading Strategy

In this series of video I've explaining both active reading which is the technique I use all the time for reading better in classes and in myself study. I've also discussed speed reading it's the techniques which has more limited use than most of the people that are credit for but still a technique than you can use and is very useful in certain situations. Now question is; what is the best reading strategy you use in your class. So generally say that rereading, so sometimes people could do that as the studying technique, read the chapter and then reread it from cover to cover a few times. This is a bad and very in efficient use of your time. The only time I ever advocate rereading is when you didn't understand anything from what you're reading the first pass. And usually that means you're reading too fast or you're reading in a way that you didn't understand the pre requisite ideas in order to cover it. So if you are reading a very advance mathematics textbook then you cannot understand any of the foundation concepts, maybe you have to rereading this entirely because you didn't extract anything from that reading session. So really, the only reason to reread something is because you are very in efficient the first time, what I recommend instead is that you go to the cover of the material just once. So if you have a lecture series or video series that also cover the exact same information as the textbook, and I mean if there is some areas where they don't overlap then you can get one from another. You might need to reread or you might need to do again speed reading techniques to try uncover what are the details are different from the class versus the textbooks. But if there is considerable overlap, and there is very little sort of different from where they don't overlap then I would also recommend just doing once. So just dong the lectures and just doing the textbook because you're far better off I was in the higher value techniques of doing practice problem and by doing a lot of practice problem and inside building techniques, and in finding techniques metaphor, visualizations, diagram. These are things more useful purposes of your time and just rereading and recovering the same material.

The better strategy to cover the material once, using the techniques we describe on this book so you're getting good coverage, good outstanding of the ideas and then doing practice problems, you do practice problem, you do self test, if its class require. Significant memorization you can use flash card, if it a class it doesn't have practice problems then you can do quiz recall. So you just do hide the material and say what was the big idea of this chapter and you have just unread spontaneously without looking on your notes. If you are on a technical class and you do practice problem you do practice problems assignments with solutions and check and see whether you are doing the techniques problem. And in this situation, what this does, what this body of practice does is it tells you these are the areas that you don't understand as well and these are the area you understand very well. And from that you can figure out if you are going to reread it should be very selective. So if you are going to reread something, it should a very specific section that you didn't

understand perfectly. If you're rereading whole chapter, it means simply that your method was too inefficient the first time. Then you are going too fast or you didn't understand the prerequisite ideas well enough in order to get through about that pace.

So that generally what I recommend for your overall reading strategy. Don't try to do both lectures and textbooks if it truly has the same coverage. If they have very different coverage which is also common so keep that in mind, sometimes professor will teach something in the lecture and the textbook will cover completely different material. In that case you need to cover both because they are complimentary house of the course but sometimes it's just a back up and if it's a back up then I would use the selective reading strategy where you doing the body of practice to figure out what you don't understand and then using that to identify what you need to reread. So this reading strategy can cut down a lot of time particularly if you are the kind of person that spend a lot of time rereading their notes, rereading the chapters, rewriting their notes . That is the very inefficient techniques compare to other techniques that we are going to be talking about later in the course such as the finding technique. And certainly a more inefficient technique and then you actually practice and getting feedback, which of course the feedback is the third principle we discussed at the very beginning of this course. If you are doing practice problems or anything wherein feedback what you know and what you don't know that's a very good method in order to figure out these are the things that i need to do rereading.