

Getting Your Students to Utilize Their Textbooks and Other Course Materials

TIP SHEET

****Instructors have a key role to play in the promotion of text reading****

- **Create a textbook checklist** to have students complete the first day/week of classes. (or when students are not reading) This teacher-created list allows students to become familiar with their book, become more comfortable interacting with it, and aid in greater comprehension and retention of the material.

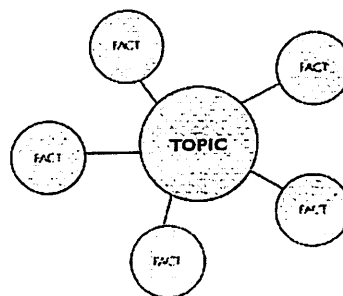
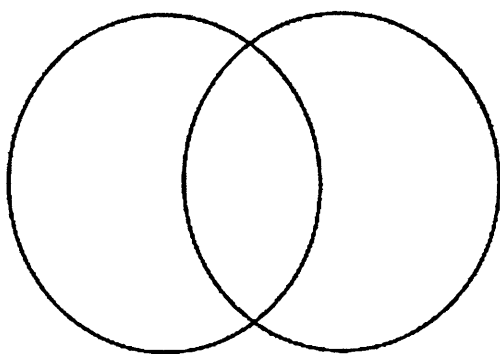
Some checklist questions might include:

Before Reading:

- _____ How is the textbook organized and how does it compare/relate to your syllabus?
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While Reading:

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- **Prepare Graphic Organizers** to be filled out during or after class about the chapter being discussed. This puts ownership on students to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussions.



- **Teach a simple textbook strategy** like Text Coding. It's a simple coding system you can use to mark the text and record what you are thinking, either in the margins or on post-it notes. It allows you to interact with your textbook and gain greater understanding and comprehension.

I = Interesting

* = Important

? = unclear/have a question

A = Agree

St = Steps

D = Disagree

Def = Definition.

C = Connection

Text Coding: An Interactive Reading Strategy

What is text coding?

A simple coding system you can use to mark the text and record what you are thinking about it, either in the margins or on post-it notes. It allows you to interact with your textbook and gain greater understanding and comprehension.

What does text coding look like?

CODE	MEANING
I	Interesting
?	I have a question about this.
☆	Important
A	Agree
C	Connects to something else I know about
C/C	Compare & contrast
C/E	Cause & effect
D	Disagree
Def	Definition
P/S	Problem & solution
St	Steps
T-S	Text-to-self connection: How does this relate to my life?
T-T	Text-to-text connection: Have I read something like this before?
T-W	Text-to-world connection: How does this relate to the world around me?

Start simple: Use 3-4 codes from the table, or use codes you've created yourself.

Tip: If a word

- Is repeated
- Seems important
- Is unknown to you

Draw a box around it for later look-up!

pseudopseudohypoparathyroidism

hahahahar!

FARD

googersniggles

See an example of coded text on the following page.

THE FISCAL TIMES

Key: ★ = Interesting
A = Agree
T-S = Text to Self
Connection

→ Include a key every time →

Why America's College Students Don't Graduate

By STEVE YODER, The Fiscal Times December 19, 2011

With university costs rising, parents of college students who graduate early are counting themselves lucky. Los Angeles advertising executive Steve Fisher is one of those—his daughter Kimberly, 19, is finishing her second year at the University of California-Irvine and plans to get her bachelor's degree in genetics a year early—she'll be done in spring 2013. Fisher figures that will save the family \$22,000 in tuition and at least another \$9,000 in room and board.

T-S As students go, Kimberly has strayed from the norm. She's among a tiny group who will finish early. ★ About 1.5 percent of students now get bachelor's degrees within three years, according to an analysis of government education data by researcher Clifford Adelman at the Institute for Higher Education Policy. But it's far more common for students to take longer than four years — a study last year by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed that in the last three decades, more students are having trouble graduating on time. A

RELATED: 10 Insanely Overpaid Public College Presidents

Today, especially among low-income students who attend public community colleges as a gateway to a college or university, 27 percent actually graduate in four years, and 48 percent of those pursuing bachelor's degrees at private schools do so, according to ACT Inc., an organization that provides college testing exams and other services. Most students take at least six years, and even then only 55 percent get their degrees. ★

The Fiscal Times FREE Newsletter

With the cost of tuition and student debt increasing, an extra year can tack on \$16,140 in tuition, fees, and room and board at a four-year public university, and \$36,993 at a four-year private college. Add the student's lost year of income and the real price of an extra year can range from \$45,000 to \$90,000 or more a year. } ★

E-mail



To address the issue, a few schools are trying to reverse the trend by overhauling how they operate. Some education advocates believe that shortening the road to a degree will raise the proportion of students who get one, while also saving students money. A

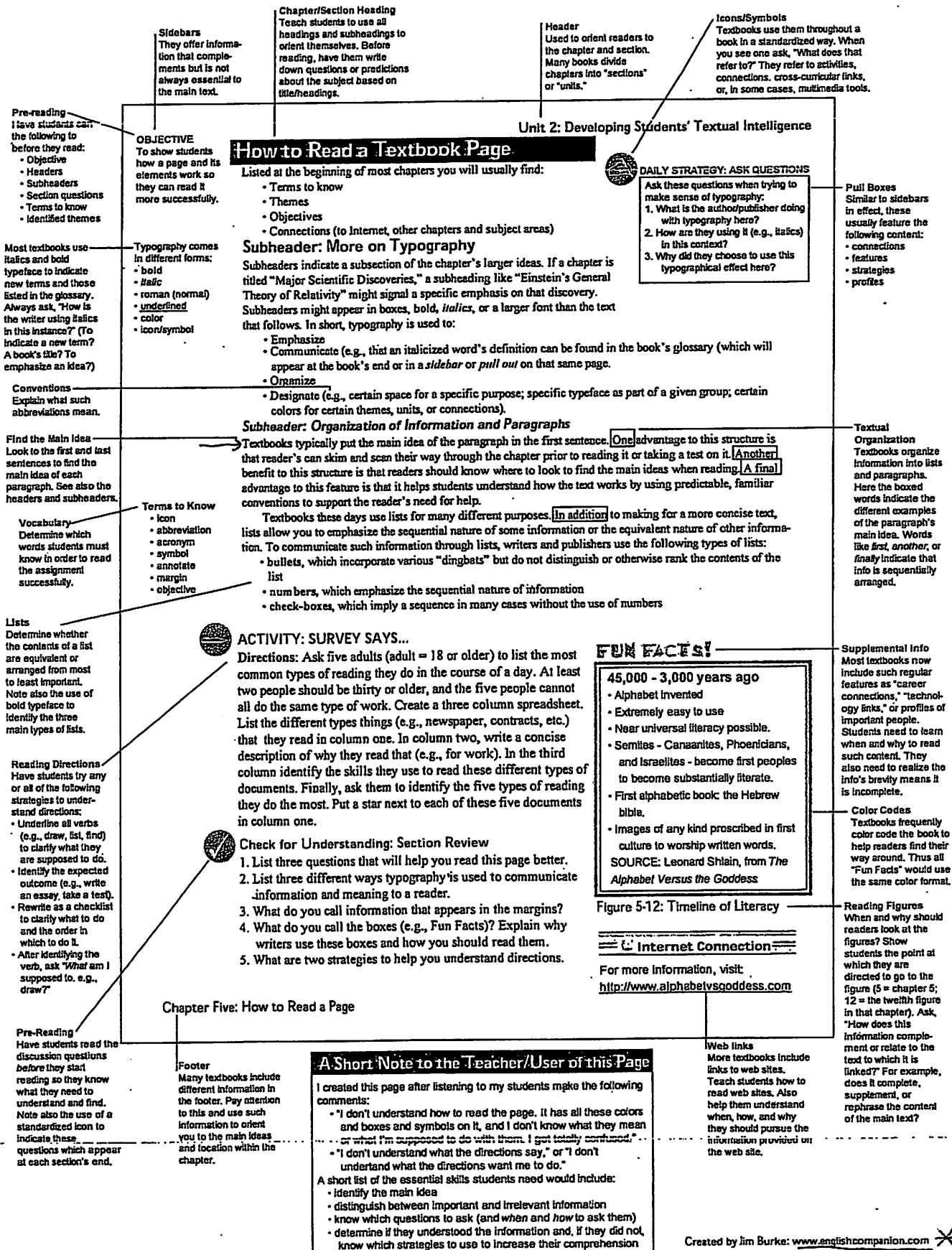
One unavailable prerequisite course can cost a student an entire year. ★ T-S

A Choosing a major early along with a student's personal motivation are major factors in on-time graduation, but research shows that most students are juggling school and work, which slows their progress. According to a 2006 study by the American Council on Education, 42 percent of students at both public and private nonprofit four-year schools work more than 20 hours a week. According to a 2008 study by the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, working increases time to graduation and decreases the likelihood of getting a degree.

Students also fall behind because classes they need aren't available when they need them, notes a 2010 report by the Southern Regional Education Board, a nonprofit that advises southern state educational leaders. One unavailable prerequisite course can cost a student an entire year. A frustrated parent told Wisconsin's WISC-TV in December 2009 that her son, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, had taken enough credits but still would not be able to graduate in four years because of full classes. "He has been pleading with staff at UW-SP to get this rectified and they will not do anything other than get him finished in four and a half years," she said.

Lightweight classes continue to fill college catalogs, like "Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame."

Another time suck: many students are taking classes they don't need. Data released this fall by national nonprofit Complete



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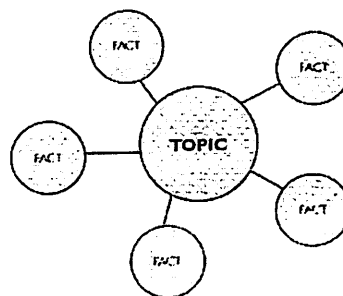
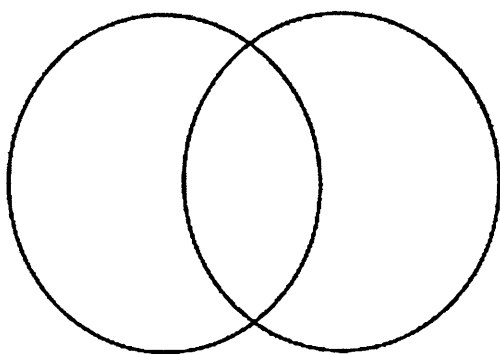
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