

Reading at the College Level Overview

Course Description:

Reading at the College Level is a one-semester, pass/fail class designed to teach and apply practical reading skills that you will use for the rest of your life. You will learn to think about yourself as a reader as you get to know your strengths and weaknesses. Each week you will track your reading progress as you grow as a reader through reading exercises and applied strategies. Students are often amazed at their quick progress. If you enjoy challenging and competing against yourself, this course will be an excellent fit for you.

Goals of RCL:

1. Increase reading rate speed
2. Comprehension and reading strategies for fiction and non-fiction books
3. Recall of information
4. Study skills
5. Vocabulary building

Typical Weekly Assignments:

- Each week students are assigned reading from a very short chapter in the textbook, *Speed Reading Naturally*. After the first several weeks of class, students are assigned a new novel to read every week in under an hour. By the end of the semester, many students are reading the novels in *well* under 30 minutes.
- When students complete their weekly readings, they will take a 10 question multiple choice comprehension quiz. These answers, along with their reading rate, will be recorded on a progress chart (**chart due at end of semester**).
- Students will record their weekly goals on a chart (**chart due at end of semester**).
- Students will also write discussion posts and responses each week. Typically this post relates to what students are learning in the textbook, their weekly reading, and/or their own thoughts on reading/studying.
- Throughout the course of the semester, students will work through a vocabulary chart where they are assigned two words per week (**chart due at end of semester**). We will spend time on vocabulary in every class with the goal of *enjoying* and recognizing new words. On Fridays, students will bring in a word of their choice to share with the class.
- Students will be required to complete a semester project where they choose one fiction book, one non-fiction book, and two articles all related to the same topic. They will complete the readings on their own time and then fill out a book report form for each reading. The book report forms are fairly simple to complete (**report forms due at end of semester**).

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- Each day in class, students will spend between 15-30 minutes on USR (Ultimate Speed Reader), which is a computer program that tailors a speed-reading program to the student. By the end of the semester, the ultimate goal for the student is to read at a rate three times their base rate with 90% comprehension. Most students find themselves reading at a higher rate than this even earlier in the semester.
- There are no exams in this class.

Assignments Due at the End of the Semester:

1. Progress chart of recorded reading rates and comprehension quiz percentages
2. Weekly goals chart
3. Vocabulary chart
4. Culminating book reports

Note: Although these assignments are due at the end of the semester, there will be regular check points to be sure students are on track for success.