THIEVES Reading Strategy

What is THIEVES?

THIEVES is reading strategy that will allow you to get a big-picture view of the chapter before you begin reading it. It essentially is priming your brain to better retain and understand the importance and relevance of the information within your course. We recommend utilizing the THIEVES strategy before beginning your comprehensive read of the content, and especially before attending your lecture/discussion.

		Questions to Ask Yourself
T	**Title**	• What do I think the text will be about? • What do I think the author's message will be? • What is my background knowledge?
H	**Headings**	• How has the information been divided into smaller topics? • What are the smaller topics? • What do I think I will read in each section? • How will the topics relate to the big picture?
I	**Introduction**	• How does the introduction try to make me curious about the subject?
E	**Every first sentence in a section**	• What additional details can I find about the reading?
V	**Visuals and Vocabulary**	• What visuals are used? • What do they tell me about what I will be reading? • Are there bold words that might be important? What do the bold words mean?
E	**End of Article, End of Chapter Questions**	• How does the author finish the writing? • What questions will I be asked to answer? • Thinking about all of the information, what do I predict I will be reading about?
S	**Summarize Thinking**	• What do I think the author's main idea will be in this text?

It's kind of like using a map!

If I were to plop you somewhere in the forest and point to a mountain peak and tell you to get there, your experience would be stressful. Just like reading without using THIEVES beforehand, you will not know what landmarks/ topics to look for. You also wouldn't know how long it would take you to reach your destination, or even really what it looks like. However, using THIEVES beforehand will help you identify those 'landmarks' and your 'destination' for the chapter. This, in turn, will make your reading and lecture hall experiences less stressful because you will not be 'lost'. With it, you will know what information the chapter will be uncovering, how long it will take you to read it, and you will see how the content all connects together.

Adapted from: Iowa State University, Academic Success Center