

General Text Tour – Previewing Your Text

This activity will help you develop familiarity with your textbook and will serve as an introduction to study strategy instruction.

Directions:

Using your text, answer the following questions. These questions focus on the parts of the book and on the information contained in these parts of the book.

- Title of the textbook
- Author(s)
- Copyright date
- The Table of Contents provides a "road map" of the whole text. It gives an overview of what topics will be covered and what learning aids are provided. Answer the following questions in your own words by referring to the Table of Contents.
- How many units/chapters are in this book?
- Are the units/chapters in the Table of Contents grouped into sections?
- If so, explain the basis for the grouping:
- Locate the Preface. Prefaces, Forwards, and Introductions contain essentially the same information. These lead-in comments give the author(s) a chance to talk about why the book was written and how it is organized. Often a suggestion about how to read the book is provided. Read the "Preface" of your textbook. Use your own words to explain what it told you about your text.
- Does your text have both a Preface and an Introduction? If yes, why do you think the authors chose to do this?
- A Glossary gives definitions of difficult technical terms used in a text. It is a valuable aid to understanding the vocabulary of a difficult subject. Does your book have a glossary? How did you find the answer? What other ways are vocabulary presented in your text? How did you find the answer?
- Aside from a glossary, what text aids are also included in your textbook? Consider both aids within chapters and after the instructional body of the book. List each aid and explain how it is useful to the student.

References

Herbert, H., & Herbert, J. (1993). *Teaching in Content Areas with Reading, Writing, and Reasoning*. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Readence, J., & Bean, T., & Baldwin, R. (1992). *Content Area Reading: An Integrated Approach* (4th ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.