Discover Your Reading Profile

Check the statement that best describes you as a reader:

1. When I have an assignment to read
   ___ a. I am usually enthusiastic about what I will learn.
   ___ b. I like to wait to see whether what I have to read will be valuable.
   ___ c. I am generally apprehensive about reading assignments because I’m afraid I may not understand them.

2. My attitude toward the authors of my college books is
   ___ a. I think of them as human beings with an interesting story to tell.
   ___ b. I haven’t really given the writers much thought.
   ___ c. I think of them as people who will probably talk over my head.

3. When I plan my reading
   ___ a. I think about how the assignment fits in with the objectives of the course.
   ___ b. I review the prior assignment to set the stage for current work.
   ___ c. I plunge in so I can get it done.

4. I take breaks
   ___ a. to consolidate the information I read.
   ___ b. to help extend the length of productive study time.
   ___ c. whenever I lose interest in my reading.

5. When I don’t know a word
   ___ a. I look it up, write it down, and practice it.
   ___ b. I try to figure it out from the context of the sentence.
   ___ c. I usually skip over it and hope it won’t make too much difference in the meaning.

6. When I can’t understand a sentence
   ___ a. I reread the sentence more carefully.
   ___ b. I try to figure it out from the context of the sentence.
   ___ c. I usually skip the sentence, hoping it will make sense later.

7. When the whole assignment confuses me
   ___ a. I try to find more materials that will shed some light on my confusion.
   ___ b. I ask the instructor or someone else for ideas about how to cope with the assignment.
   ___ c. I tend to give up on it.

8. When I read
   ___ a. I concentrate on reading as fast as I can while still understanding the meaning.
   ___ b. I try to sweep as many words as I can at a glance.
   ___ c. I take it own word at a time—speed doesn’t matter to me.

Results: Choices a and b are more indicative of readers who are achieving college success. If you have marked many c choices, you might benefit from a visit with a reading specialist who can help you develop more successful reading strategies.

Source: Santrock, John W. and Halonen, Jane S. Your Guide to College Success.
learning assistance, study skills handouts