

Molecular Biology Through Discovery

Reading a Research Article

1. Open up the excerpt from a research article available from the calendar and at [this link](#).*
2. Go into the article with a purpose. Suppose your purpose is understanding how DNA replicates.
3. Read the article quickly, not skipping anything but also not dwelling on anything you understand. If you encounter something that doesn't immediately burst with meaning, highlight it.
4. Reconsider everything you highlighted. In light of what you have read, if you think that understanding the highlighted word or phrase would not significantly help you reach your goal (see #2), then unhighlight it and put it out of your mind.
5. Reconsider everything that remains highlighted. Translate your puzzlement into a full length question.
6. Prioritize the highlighted words or phrases. Which ones do you think are central to your understanding of what you read and important in reaching your goal?
7. Take those with the highest priority and develop a strategy to attain understanding. Your strategy may include:
 - A quick trip to Google or Wikipedia
 - Looking for an appropriate article, via something like PubMed
 - Finding an appropriate textbook or similar
 - Asking your mentor, if this is in his/her field
 - Asking someone else who might be knowledgeable

* <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~elhajj/bnfo300/14/Units/DNA/DNA-experiment.pdf>