

Getting ready to read

Before you begin to read, you can skim and scan the text to identify:

- What type of text you are reading – STRUCTURE OF THE TEXT
- Why you are reading the text – YOUR PURPOSE
- What you think the text will be about – DRAW ON YOUR BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE TOPIC

By identifying your PURPOSE and TYPE OF TEXT you will be able to:

- Know what type of reading you will need to use to get the information – such as skimming, scanning or close reading. Sometimes we can use one type of reading style and other times we may combine them to gain meaning from the text.
- Know the structure of the text, as this will help you to know the order or way the words will be organised, the type of grammar and the types of key words that you can expect to find.
- Know where you are most likely to find the information you need. For instance, if you are looking for the resolution in a narrative you are most likely to find it towards the end of the text but if you are looking for the place that the events occurred you are more likely to find it in the orientation in the beginning of the page (or paragraph) or at the beginning of the chapter for longer texts.