



Reading Log

The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** that you
Learn, the more places
you'll **GO**.


Dr. Seuss

Practicing Normal.com



Sources of Information



If you're looking for resources to use as part of your reading and research, here are a few places you could start:

Libraries

Sixth Form Library

The sixth form library contains the essential texts listed on the KS5 reading list for the subjects you are studying in sixth form.

Library of Birmingham

The Library of Birmingham, situated in Birmingham city centre, is open Monday-Saturday and it contains a range of texts and journals useful to A level and BTEC students.

University of Birmingham Library.

Forge sixth form students can gain free access to the library at the University of Birmingham up to 10 times per year. If you plan to visit the library, you'll need a letter from school confirming that you are a sixth form student at Forge. A member of the sixth form team will be able to provide you with the letter.

Google Scholar

Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com>) provides free access to scholarly research, including peer-reviewed papers and articles. Once you've found a text that is useful for your research, you can see where else that text has been cited and explore related articles.

JSTOR

You can create an account with JSTOR and read up to **100 articles for free each month**. Visit the [JSTOR support page](https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us) at <https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us> for instructions on how to register.

Access to Research

Some public libraries offer access to over 15 million online journal articles through a scheme called Access to Research. By visiting <https://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk> you can view which articles and journals are available, then find a participating library where you can view the full text.

Statistics

The Office for National Statistics is the national statistical institute of the UK. Here you can find accurate and up-to-date statistics for things like population, GDP, society, health and government. Statistics can be accessed at <https://www.ons.gov.uk>

CORE

You can find free to access academic articles at <https://core.ac.uk>.

Academic Publications Available in Sixth Form

In sixth form we have subscriptions to some academic publications. If the subscriptions are relevant to any of the subjects you study, your teachers will let you know how to access articles and information.



Reading Techniques



Skim Reading

Skim reading is not about reading every single word; it's about strategically navigating through the text to identify the key information you're looking for and delving into the parts of the text that contains what you're looking for.

Start by quickly glancing over the entire text. Focus on headings, subheadings, and any bold or italicised text. This will provide an overview of the structure and main points.

Skim reading is extracting the 'big picture' information rather than examining the details, by focusing on the key sections.

This 'big picture' information will be found in

- Abstracts
- Introductions
- Conclusions
- Graphs/illustrations

Scanning

Scanning text involves moving your eyes rapidly across the page, looking for keywords or phrases that are relevant to your purpose.

- Start with the index rather than the introduction
- Look at chapter or section headings to see if your topic is discussed in a specific part of the text

If the text is digital, you have more – and more efficient – options:

- Keyword search for your topic
- There is usually a search icon with e-books
- Ctrl+F keys will work with PDFs (for journal articles), website text, and Word documents

Close Reading

Reading techniques such as skim reading and scanning are useful in specific situations, but 'fast reading' is not always better reading.

Sometimes it's really important to slow down and read part or all of a text or chapter carefully and absorb each word.

Sometimes you'll also need to read and re-read something to make sure you've really understood it.

Date	Topic / Theme	Additional reading and research carried out <i>(please reference books / articles / journals / chapters / websites etc you used)</i>	Do you have any questions as a result of your reading and research? <i>(please record these)</i>	<i>Did you come across any terms / words you are unfamiliar with? (please record these)</i>

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