

## ***Improving Your Reading Skills***

- ✓ Before reading a longer passage (such as a story or a page-length reading in a 2201 text), make a xerox copy of it, so you can take notes in the margins.
- ✓ Pay attention to the context of the reading passage: the chapter in which it is contained (and grammar/vocabulary studied previous to the reading), any photos accompanying it that may give an indication as to its subject matter, a vocabulary list that may accompany it.
- ✓ Read over any questions on the text, even if they come after the text, so you are aware of the information you will be looking for when reading.
- ✓ Read the title of the passage as well as titles of sections and the first sentence of each paragraph.
- ✓ Skim the article to get an idea of what the topic is.
- ✓ Finally, read the selection concentrating on the main message and information. Don't worry if there are words you don't understand, if you get the gist. Don't look up every word you don't know in the dictionary. This will bog you down and make you lose sight of the main ideas of the passage. Try to guess the meaning using context. If you have made a copy of the passage, put a light slash mark under the words that you don't understand, and keep reading. If not knowing the meaning of a word causes you to not understand the passage, make a note of that word. You may figure out what it means by the end of the passage. If not, look it up.
- ✓ Read selections more than once: at least twice, but preferably 3 times.
- ✓ Find opportunities to read French outside of class. Browse the French magazines in the language lab, go online to [www.voila.fr](http://www.voila.fr) (a French search engine) and look through the categories that interest you, check out some of the links to French-language newspapers here, or look up a subject you are interested in on Wikipedia <http://www.wikipedia.org/> , then switch to the French article about the same subject (check out the menu on the left-hand side, and choose "français").
- ✓ Reading is a skill that you can work on outside of class, and one that you can maintain over your lifetime. Also, the more you read, the more vocabulary you will acquire, and the better your own writing will be: one can only write as well as one can read.