## Tips for Reading Challenging Material

1. **Read Supplemental Material**
   Read introductory textbooks, trade books, study guides, manuals, survey books, etc. that are on the same topic, but easier to read. This will build background information so you can understand the original reading assignment.

2. **Reread**
   Read the text once and then, highlighting all the known parts, read it again. Go back and read the unknown parts to see if you have figured them out.

3. **Ask for Help**
   Ask someone to read parts of the text to you.

4. **Focus on Essential Words**
   Read the text and focus on the verbs and nouns. Cross out unnecessary adjectives and adverbs. Look for terms in bold print or italics.

5. **Monitor**
   Read one paragraph, stop, and identify the main idea. Put a plus sign (+) at the end of the paragraph if you can identify the main idea, or a minus sign (−) if you cannot. Read the next paragraph, stop, and identify the main idea. Put a plus sign (+) sign if you can identify the main idea, or a minus sign (−) if you cannot. Continue reading. If you get two minuses in a row, go back and reread or ask someone to help you fix up the confusing parts.

6. **Be Active**
   - Read the text aloud.
   - Take notes during reading.
   - Talk to someone about what you find easy/hard to understand in the text.
   - Highlight known and unknown parts in different colours.
   - Read the text to another student; read to each other.
   - Using visuals or sketches, teach each other the difficult parts.
   - Match the text structure to an appropriate graphic organizer and work on it with a partner.
   - Relate the text to personal experiences, other texts, and/or to the world.

7. **Answer Questions**
   Answer the review questions at the end of the chapter. If questions are not available, make up your own by converting the headings into questions.