

# Studying for English

## Skills Enhancement & Tutoring Center

### Reading the text:

- Always have a pencil when you read so you can make notes in the margins
- Always have a dictionary handy to look up words you don't understand
- Sometimes I find it helpful to write down all the characters of a book and some of their characteristics just so I don't get them confused, especially if it's a novel with many similar characters
- Highlight or underline the main points or important points in the text
- Look for patterns or themes in the text such as repetition of a word or references
- Read as though you will be asked to respond about the text.

### Doing homework:

- Don't wait until the last minute
- Read slowly
- If you don't completely understand a sentence, re-read it until you do
- Talk about the text with others in your class
- Visualize the scene, the characters, etc

### Studying for and taking exams:

- Keep good "margin notes" and re-read them; re-read what you highlighted
- Re-read old papers from the class
- Skim over the text and write down the key points you remember
- Make flashcards of especially pertinent information
- Start studying several days before the test
- Organize study groups and prepare questions for these before you go

### You really need to nail down:

- Keep good, complete, and concise margin notes
- Thesis statements
- Relating every point in your paper to your thesis

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→ Figuring it out together →

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