

8. Notes

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HOW TO READ A BOOK

MORTIMER J. ADLER & CHARLES VAN DOREN

INSPECTIONAL READING
Systematic skimming

Does the book deserve careful reading?
Q: Title, table of contents, index, blank fly sheets, skimmed pages

Superficial reading
In handling a book for the first time, read it through without ever stopping up! Look up or ponder things you do not understand right away.

you will understand more as you reread the book.
Read at the speed appropriate for the book.

ANALYTICAL READING
Understanding

Notes: structural, conceptual, dialectical, expository (sequences between ideas)

Classify the book:
1. Summarize the book in one sentence or a short paragraph.
2. Show the book's organization/structure.
3. Analyze the problem the author tries to solve.

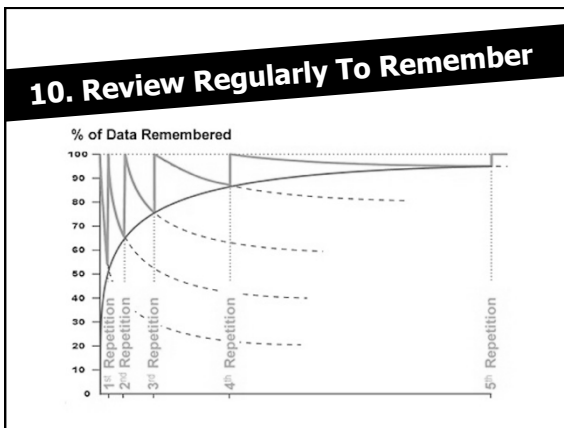
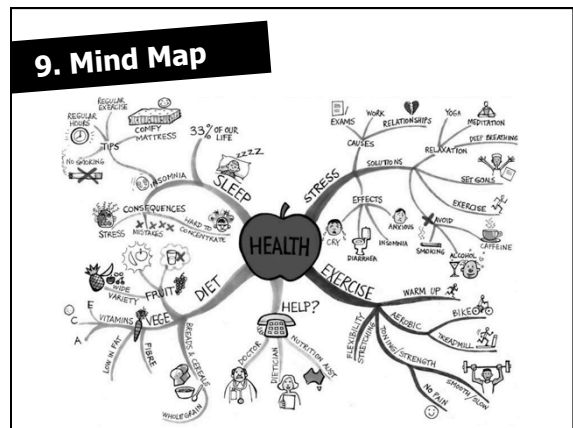
Understand:
A. Is it true? So what?
B. Dialectical arguments/paradoxes

SYNOPTICAL READING
many books & their relationships

Build a bibliography: impact, topics, related books

1. Find the important elements/paradigms (without to go)
2. Reconnect authors' terms
3. Clarify the key questions in the discussion between books.
4. Define the issues
5. Analyze the discussion.

lots of tips on how to read
Advanced types of material (making philosophy?)
00 Exercises for different levels of reading!





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