

Reading Exercise 1: Activating Prior Knowledge Spring 2019

The Pre-read/ Fast-read stage of the Guide to Reading Philosophy suggests you do a few things with a text *before* you ever start to read it carefully. Specifically, it says the following:

Look over the essay article before you start reading, taking notes on a number of topics (see questions below). Then do a fast read-through of the article, not much more than a skim, adding to your notes.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Is there an **abstract**/ summary? What does it say?
- What kind of **structure** does the essay have (how many sections, what does each address, etc.)?
- Is there a **thesis** statement? What is it? Where does the author state it?
- Does the author use any recurring **vocabulary** that seems important to the article? If so, does the author explain what he or she means by it? Where?
- Are there any **reading questions** attached? Where might I be able to find the answers to these?

For next class's reading assignment, do the pre-read as directed, and sketch down answers to the questions posed by the bullet points. After you do that, write a brief paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing what you expect the essay to be about on the basis of your pre-read. Then, write 3-4 sentences about what you know about this topic.