

## Reading Workshop Introduction to College Level Reading

“If we think of it, all that a University, or final highest School can do for us, is still but what the first school began doing—teach us to read.”

Thomas Carlyle

“Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: That is some books are to be read only in parts; others are to be read but cursorily, and some few to be read with diligence and attention.”

Francis Bacon, “Of Studies”

Many students are under the impression that reading is a “laid back” activity—that the mind is a sponge that soaks up the meaning as the eyes move along the lines of print. However, effective reading is not “laid back.” It is an active process in which the mind of the reader is actively involved with the text—questioning, probing, analyzing, disagreeing, doubting, criticizing, or in some other way reacting to the words on the page.

Based on the premise that our learning depends as much on how we read as how much we read, the Learning Resource Center will provide a Workshop which will introduce students to the principles of close reading of a text. Mike Rose in *Lives on the Boundary* makes the following observation about his experience in college and his growing understanding of the real difficulty involved in the act of reading: “[My instructor] was helping me develop an ability to read difficult texts—I was learning how to read critically, how to tease out definitions and basic arguments. And I was also gaining confidence that if I stayed with material long enough and kept asking questions, I’d get it” (51). Since a large number of students either philosophy or theology, the workshop will model reading in those courses. The strategies modeled are transferable to other disciplines as well.

Workshop Schedule: (multiple sessions are offered, choose one)

Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:30 am  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 5:30 pm  
Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup> 3:30- 5:00 pm  
Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> 2:30 – 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 – 10:30 am  
Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Sessions will meet in Room 229 Coleman Morse Center

Pre-registration required: email [harmatiuk.1@nd.edu](mailto:harmatiuk.1@nd.edu)