



# Hitting the books

Preparing students for Skillful university reading

Lindsay Warwick



## YOU WON'T FINISH THIS ARTICLE



I'm going to keep this brief, because you're not going to stick around for long. I've already lost a bunch of you. For every 161 people who landed on this page, about 61 of you—38 percent—are already gone. You “bounced” in Web traffic jargon, meaning you spent no time “engaging” with this page at all.

So now there are 100 of you left. Nice round number. But not for long! We're at the point in the page where you have to scroll to see more. Of the 100 of you who didn't bounce, five are never going to scroll. Bye!

OK, fine, good riddance. So we're 95 now. A friendly, intimate crowd, just the people who want to be here. Thanks for reading, folks! I was beginning to worry about your attention span, even your intellig ... wait a second, where are you guys going? You're *tweeting* a link to this article already? You haven't even read it yet! What if I go on to advocate something truly awful, like a constitutional amendment requiring that we all **type two spaces after a period?**





# Changing reading habits

Epipheo.tv “What the Internet is doing to our brains” (YouTube)





# Changing reading habits

“In terms of information processing, we are shifting toward a shallow mode of learning characterized by quick scanning, reduced contemplation, and memory consolidation.”

(Loh & Kanai, 2015)

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# Changing reading habits

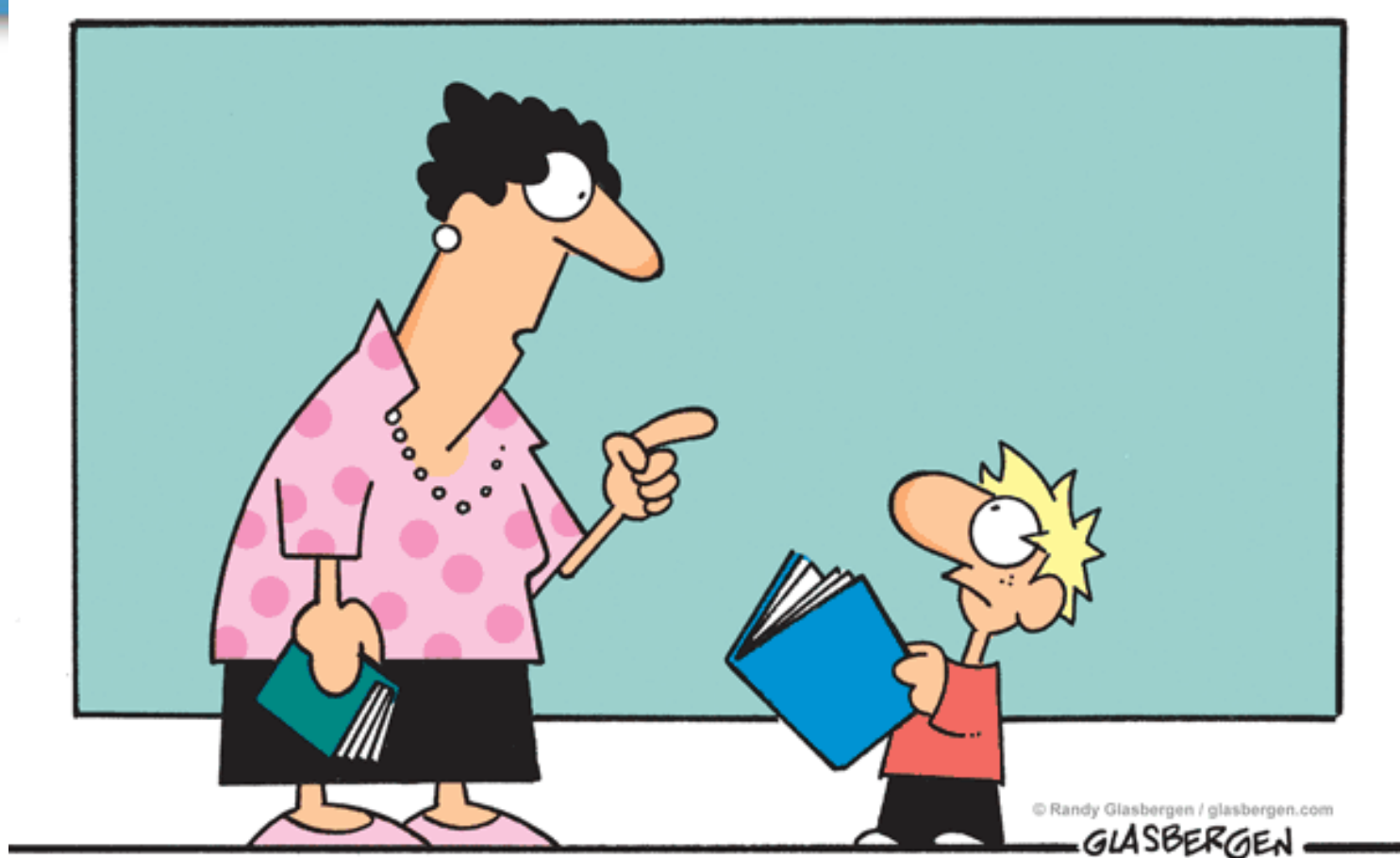
In a review of citation references in students' research papers, 46% came from the first page of a source and 77% came from the first three pages.

(Baron, 2015)

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# Developing active, critical readers



**“It’s called ‘reading’. It’s how people  
install new software into their brains”**

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# Becoming an active reader

## PQ3R

- Preview
- Question
- Read
- Recite
- Review

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# Engaging students

“Through her years of research, Sherry Turkle has noticed that *these* permit us to have complete control over our friendships.”

What do you think ‘*these*’ are?

Skillful Reading & Writing 4, Macmillan

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# Engaging students

“It is home to approximately five million people in an area of only about 700 square kilometers. It doesn’t have abundant resources and was once a massive swamp. It enjoys excellent education and health systems.”

What country is this?

Skillful Reading & Writing 1, Macmillan

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# Size doesn't matter



<sup>1</sup> Singapore is home to approximately five million people in an area of only about 700 square kilometers. It does

In 1960, the Housing Development Board (HDB) was founded. Within a decade, 50,000 new homes were built. Urban planning is now under the control of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). Because there are about 7,300 people per square kilometer, about 85% of the population is now living in high-rise public housing units. These are referred to as housing estate towns and are divided into neighborhoods of about 24,000 people. Each neighborhood has schools, clinics, and many other businesses.

<sup>3</sup> Singapore has a land reclamation project that builds up additional land from the sea floor. Engineers work to figure out where they can add to existing land in a way that will not affect tidal zones or water levels. The country has added about 100 square kilometers of land and is planning at least that much more in the near future. In fact, Singapore's famous Changi Airport is built on reclaimed land.

<sup>4</sup> Transportation in Singapore is also well planned. Its Mass Rapid Transit system allows all areas to be accessed easily by rail, reducing road use substantially. Bus stations and train stations are built over each other to make efficient use of space and allow ease of access between transportation



# Engaging students

“What do elephants, whales, alligators, hurricanes, and manmade explosions all have in common?”

Skillful Reading & Writing 3, Macmillan

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# The loudest



## sound you've never heard

<sup>1</sup>What do elephants, whales, alligators, hurricanes, and man-made explosions all have in common? They all can create infrasound, a mysterious sound that humans cannot hear. Humans can only hear sounds within a certain range of frequency. The frequency (the number of cycles of vibration per second) of sound is measured in a unit called a hertz. Humans can hear sounds from 20 Hz. (hertz) to 20 kHz. (20,000 hertz), but scientists are able to measure sounds at much lower hertz. Infrasound is less than 20 hertz, which is a frequency too low for humans to hear.

<sup>2</sup>Scientists first became aware of the existence of infrasound in 1883, when the gigantic explosion of the Krakatoa volcano in Indonesia resulted in windows breaking hundreds of miles away and barometric pressure readings going haywire around the world. Scientists realized that the volcano created a massive yet inaudible infrasound, sweeping through the air around the world.

<sup>3</sup>Modern scientists are now collecting large amounts of infrasound data from measuring stations around the world. They have discovered that infrasound can be created by explosions, ocean storms, hurricanes, auroras (northern lights), and air turbulence. As they learn more about the infrasound patterns associated with certain situations, scientists can use the information to predict

Even though they could hear practically nothing on the Earth's surface, the underground devices measured a great deal of infrasound. Before the 1998 eruption of the Sakurajima volcano in Japan, infrasound instruments recorded a sharp increase in the frequency and power of the infrasound. Geologists have learned that infrasound is better for predicting a volcano than seismographic activity.

<sup>5</sup>To some creatures in the animal world, infrasound is loud and clear. Elephants make infrasounds that can be heard by other elephants up to ten kilometers away, and can be heard through the ground up to 32 kilometers away. Infrasound travels much further in water, allowing some types of whales to communicate with each other across thousands of miles. Some birds use infrasound to navigate, and rock doves have heard infrasound measured at .05 Hz., an extremely low frequency. Understanding infrasound and how animals use it can increase our knowledge about animal behavior, but it can also show how our actions can disrupt these important sounds. For example, infrasound from supersonic jets, ships, and wind turbines has been shown to disrupt other natural infrasounds, leading animals to become confused and disoriented.

<sup>6</sup>Even though we humans can't hear infrasound, there is some



# Previewing

- Title
- Subtitles
- Section headings
- Photos and captions
- Bold and italic print
- Graphs and charts
- Key words that stick out
- Introduction

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# Are online friends a threat to development?

## ***An excerpt from 'Nurturing a Child's Emotional Development' by psychologist Dr. Kristel Sharpe***


In Chapter two, I discussed how vital childhood friendships are for a person's emotional development. They help us build trust with people outside the family and learn how to compromise, share and manage conflict. They give us feedback which helps to shape the behaviour we adopt, and the people we ultimately become.

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# Predict content

padlet

 lindsay warwick • 1m

## What do you think the text will say?

Share your ideas!

**Gisella**

The fact that people spend too much time on social media and miss out on other things.

**Marcia**

How online friends make us feel, how images make us feel jealous etc.

**Kei**

How online friends are different to real-life friends and how they impact on our development.



# Question

How many questions does a teacher ask each day, on average?



# Question

What percentage of questions in a lesson, on average, are asked by students?



# Questioning & Reading

Write three questions you'd like to get answers to from this text.



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# Questioning and reading

Section	Questions I have	Answers
After previewing		
After section 1		
After section 2		
After section 3		
After the end		

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# Questioning and reading

“Through her years of research, Sherry Turkle has noticed that smartphones permit us to have complete control over our friendships. Young people decide who they communicate with, when, and how. Friendships are unpredictable and difficult to deal with but social networks are allowing people to tidy them up and manage them. If we do not want to be friends any more, a lengthy, awkward conversation is no longer needed. We simply click a button and unfriend them.”

Skillful Reading & Writing Level 4, Macmillan

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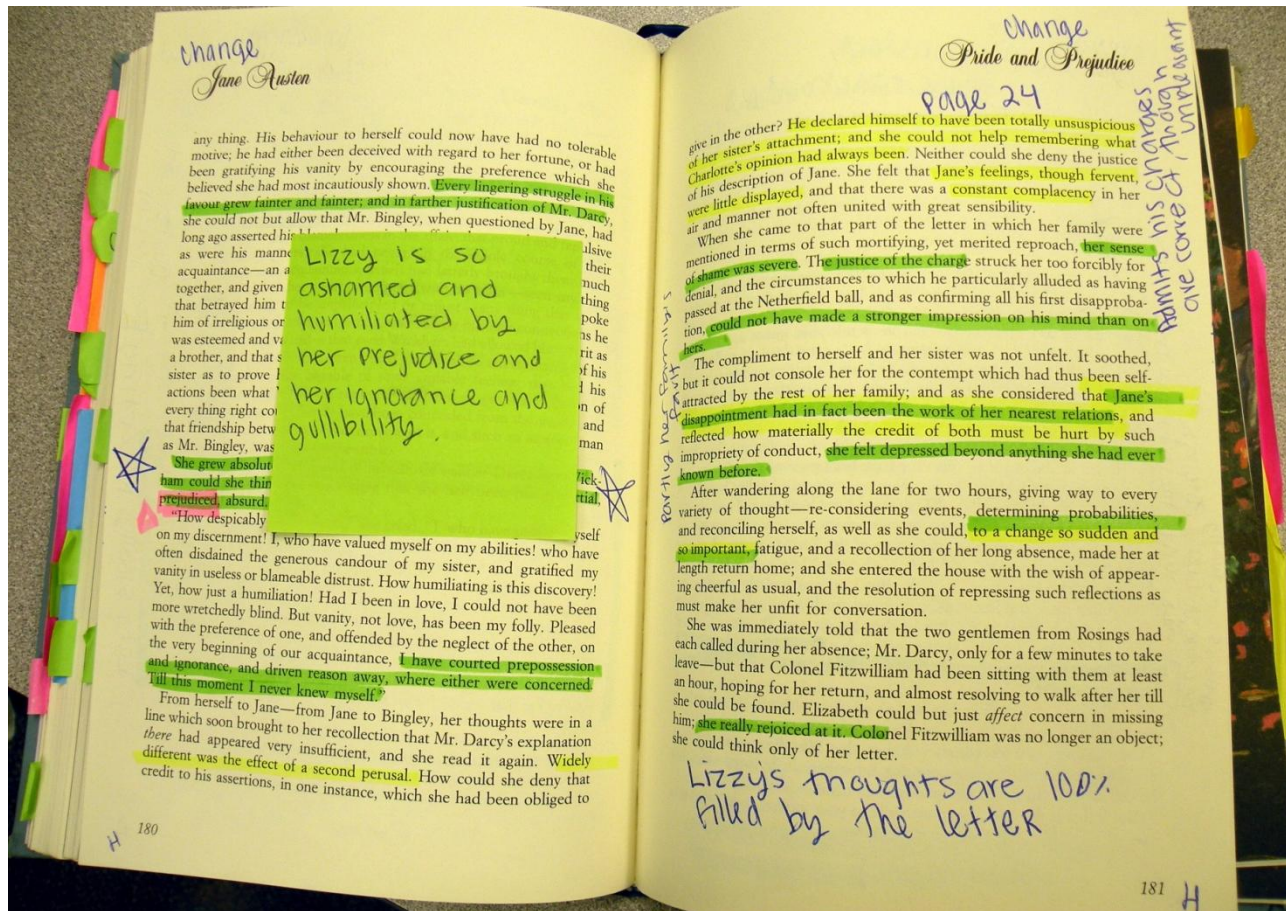


# Questioning and reading

Section	Questions I have	Answers
After previewing	How do they prevent development? Can they also be positive?	Lack of empathy, not alone Yes, emotional ties
After section 1	Does time spent impact? Is this still true in 2017?	
After section 2	How does this impact on f-2-f ties?	Suggests the same.
After section 3	How does this change development? How does 'ghosting' affect people?	Unable to manage conflict?
After the end	How can we prevent these issues?	



# Reading, reciting and reviewing



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# Reading and note-taking

**Highlight** six to ten key ideas



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Lindsay Warwick  
May 30, 2017 3:37 pm

Is this truly possible? How can you focus on two things in different places at the same time? What does research show?

Reply

Cebbi

COLLEGE students tell me they know how to look someone in the eye and type on their phones at the same time, their split attention undetected. They say it's a skill they mastered in middle school when they wanted to text in class without getting caught. Now they use it when they want to be both with their friends and, as some put it, "elsewhere."

These days, we feel less of a need to hide the fact that we are dividing our attention. In a 2015 study by the Pew Research Center, 89 percent of cellphone owners said they had used their phones during the last social gathering they attended. But they weren't happy about it; 82 percent of adults felt that the way they used their phones in social settings





# Reciting

“What the writer said was...”

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# Reciting

What was similar?

What was different?



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# Reviewing: making connections

How does this text connect to:

- other texts you've read? (text to text)
- you and your world? (text to self)
- the wider world? (text to world)

(Keene & Zimmerman, 1997)





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## THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TREE OCTOPUS

The Pacific Northwest tree octopus (*Octopus paxarbolis*) can be found in the **temperate rainforests** of the Olympic Peninsula on the west coast of North America. Their habitat lies on the Eastern side of the Olympic mountain range, adjacent to Hood Canal. These solitary cephalopods reach an average size (measured from arm-tip to mantle-tip,) of 30-33 cm. Unlike most other cephalopods, tree octopuses are amphibious, spending only their early life and the period of their mating season in their ancestral aquatic environment. Because of the moistness of the rainforests and specialized skin adaptations, they are able to keep from becoming desiccated for prolonged periods of time, but given the chance they would prefer resting in pooled water.



Ra





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Wednesday 31 May 2017 by Davywavv and Patrizia DiLucchio

# Trump pulls out of Round Earth accord

---

Donald Trump has today withdrawn the United States from an international accord agreeing that the world isn't flat.

The president has told reporters that the accord, under which all nations agree that the Earth is an oblate spheroid, is "not fit for purpose" in the 21st century, and the idea is just a theory and possibly a hoax by China.

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# Developing critical readers

- Select appropriate sources
- Identify inappropriate sources
- Evaluate arguments
- Evaluate evidence
- Evaluate conclusions

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# Identifying appropriate sources

- Go to the source
- Look at other stories
- Site disclaimers
- Research the author
- Look at links
- Look at sites like snopes.com

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# Did Pope Francis Slap Away Donald Trump's Hand?

A video purportedly showing Pope Francis slapping President Trump's hand originated on a comedy show.





# snopes.com

## CLAIM

A video shows Pope Francis slapping away Donald Trump's hand.

## RATING



**FALSE**

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# Yeah, but...



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# Evaluating an argument

<sup>4</sup> It is not an increase in population that is a severe threat. It is an increase in consumption. Materialism and overconsumption are facts of life for everybody in the western world, as possessions reflect a person's status in society and people strive to obtain happiness through owning the latest fashionable goods.

Is the argument logical?

Is the argument based on unreasonable assumptions?

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# Evaluating evidence

<sup>4</sup> It is not an increase in population that is a severe threat. It is an increase in consumption. Materialism and overconsumption are facts of life for everybody in the western world, as possessions reflect a person's status in society and people strive to obtain happiness through owning the latest fashionable goods.

Is there enough evidence to support the argument?  
Is the source of evidence reliable, valid and current?

Skillful Reading & Writing Level 4, Macmillan

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# Evaluating conclusions

Experts say that for these reasons, it is likely that a winning team may have a positive influence on the economy of a city.

Skillful Reading & Writing Level 3, Macmillan

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# Evaluating conclusions

Social scientists have studied the effect of winning a national football championship in the U.S. on the fans of the winning team. They have found that fans have more self-confidence and feel more competent, probably because team victories reflect well on their personal sense of identity. When people feel more competent, they perform better at work and are more likely to earn and spend more money (Coats and Humphreys, 2002, *The economic impact of postseason play in professional sports*). Experts say that for these reasons, it is likely that a winning team may have a positive influence on the economy of a city.



Concluding sentence

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# Evaluating evidence

<sup>4</sup> It is not an increase in population that is a severe threat. It is an increase in consumption. Materialism and overconsumption are facts of life for everybody in the western world, as possessions reflect a person's status in society and people strive to obtain happiness through owning the latest fashionable goods.

Skillful Reading & Writing Level 4, Macmillan

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# Truth or myth?

Water drains in a different direction in the northern and southern hemisphere.

The Great Wall of China is the only man-made object to be seen from space.

Body heat disappears mostly through the head.

Eating carrots helps your eyesight.

Women say 13,000 more words a day than men.

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# Prove it!

## What the Internet says

"...the answer is no."  
Robert Ehrlich

"It is based on a scientific principle known as  
the Coriolis Effect."  
*livescience.com*

"For household sinks, tubs  
and toilets, this is a myth."  
Paul Doherty

"...draining water swirls  
clockwise in the north and  
anti-clockwise in the south."  
*uk.answers.yahoo.com*

"I've observed the phenomenon in  
my own hotel room, as I'm sure have  
millions of others."  
Luka Clarke



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# To sum up

1. Engage Ss with text excerpts.
2. Padlet to share predictions
3. Question, question, question!
4. Recite – put texts into own words
5. Online note-taking tools e.g. Scribe
6. Encourage students to make connections
7. Help students identify legitimate sources (the tree octopus!)
8. Help students critically question a text

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# Thank you!

lindsay\_warwick



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