3 P's for Effective Reading

Determine the **Purpose** of the assignment:

1) Review your syllabus and ask yourself why your professor is having you do this particular reading.
2) What is the big picture? How does this reading fit into the context of this class?
3) Will you see this information on an exam? If so, what type of exam (essay, short answer, multiple choice, etc.)?
4) Will you have to write a paper about this reading? How will this information be applied to that paper?

Preview the reading assignment with this purpose in mind:

1) Read chapter headings and subheadings. Think about how these heading relate back to prior knowledge, especially anything you have learned in class. This will help information stick in your head longer.
2) Look at visuals in the book (such as graphs) and ask yourself "does this look familiar? What is brand –new to me?"
3) If you are reading out of a textbook, look for additional resources in your textbooks. Many text-books have companion websites to go along with the material.

Make a **Plan** for how you will use the reading-what do you need?:

1) Use chapter headings to set up an outline that you can fill in as you go through the reading and be sure to use it to test yourself later.
2) Selectively use a highlight to mark important quotes from the chapter you are reading.
3) Analysis for content to discuss in class. Write comments in the margins of your book.
4) Start your reading with the plan you developed in practice.

You are now ready to start reading!