

Every reading assignment has a purpose, something it is trying to accomplish. When you “read,” make sure you’re accomplishing the purpose of the assignment. To help you do this, I’ve added a purpose statement for each chapter assigned. Read each of the assigned sections/chapters, and answer any questions given.

This book is written by actuaries for actuaries, but the material is so good that I want all of our math majors to have it. So when you’re reading:

- every time they talk about the exams, think the tests in your courses
- every time they talk about readings, think sections of the chapter
- every time they talk about review, think studying for the test (unit and/or cumulative final)

READ CHAPTER 1      Purpose: understanding the story of how/why this book was written gives context and confidence in what was written

READ CHAPTER 2      Purpose: to anticipate what was coming next

READ PART I      Purpose: do you understand what mastering mathematics looks like?

Write your definition/description of mastery (how can you tell when someone else has mastered mathematical ideas):

READ CHAPTER 3      Purpose: figuring out how one actually goes about mastering mathematics

Answer the following questions from the reading:

1. Identify a three step process to effective learning
2. When you are asked to read the section before class (aka preview), what should you actually do (be very specific)
3. Identify at least two very specific techniques that you can apply to your class
4. Identify at least two different ways, which contribute to effective study, that you could do during the 3-5 mins before class starts

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RECALL CHAPTER 3      Purpose: figuring out how one actually goes about mastering mathematics

Answer the following questions based on what you’ve done in the last week:

1. How did your two very specific techniques from last week work?
2. How did you use the time before class started to help your study?

READ CHAPTER 4      Purpose: figuring out how to retain what you’ve learned

Answer the following questions from the reading:

1. What is the worst way to review?
2. What is the best way to review?
3. List two specific review (aka study) techniques from the text that you will employ?

READ CHAPTER 5      Purpose: figuring out how we can make the best use of our study time

Answer the following questions from the reading:

1. How can we measure progress between tests/class periods?
2. If you give yourself a short study break, what activities are best during the break?
3. What can you do to increase the intensity/focus of your study time?
4. What specifically can you do to decrease your study start up time?
5. What can you do for mobile (not necessarily digital) study tools and when will you use them?

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RECALL CHAPTER 4

Purpose: figuring out how to retain what you’ve learned

RECALL CHAPTER 5

Purpose: figuring out how we can make the best use of our study time

Answer the following questions based on what you’ve done in the last week:

1. When and where did you use your specific review techniques?
2. How would you describe the intensity/focus of your study time?
3. Were you able to cut down the time it took to start/switch studying?
4. How did you capitalize on the minutes between things with your mobile study tools?

READ CHAPTER 6

Purpose: figuring out how to improve our efficiency, more learning, less time

Answer the following questions from the reading:

1. Consider the reading method and consider the 3-5 mins before your math class starts. Outline how you could get some effective and efficient study done.
2. What can do/change specifically to improve your own efficiency?