

What are your worries?

Step 1: On another sheet of paper, start writing, without worrying about who you are writing to or how you are writing – “freewriting” – about what you think about your own reading. Try to write for 5 to 10 minutes.

Step 2: Use the checklist of reading concerns below to focus in on specific concerns you wrote about in Step 1 or recognize now as you are reading the list.

Remember, most readers share some of these concerns with you; that’s why it’s possible to create such a checklist! Tip: As you work through the Reading Strategies module, consider writing down any answers or ideas you find about the concerns you checked off in the second column below. At the end of the module, you will be able to use this checklist to review some the areas of the module that are most critical to your particular concerns.

Worry	Ideas

What are your strengths?

Step 3: Don’t forget about what you do well!

You wouldn’t be where you are today if you didn’t do something right when you read. Think about times when you enjoyed reading, or when it seemed that you really understood what you read, learned from it, or connected it to what you were learning.

Do you remember any of the following:

- I try to remember why I am reading.
- I look over what I am going to read before I start.
- I try to relate the text to what I have learned in class, or other things I have read.
- I take good notes when I read.
- I re-read when I think I almost understand what the reading is about, but not quite.
- I look up words I don’t understand while I am reading.
- I think critically when I read.
- I really know how to find a quiet place and concentrate on my reading.
- I take my reading in small chunks, so I don’t get overwhelmed.
- I get up and do something else for a while when I am frustrated with my reading.

What do you need
to know?

Step 4: Re-read the writing you did at the beginning and review your checklists. After you have done that, consider doing another freewrite, about what, specifically, you want to do better when you read and about what questions you are hoping to answer as you work through the Reading Strategies resource.