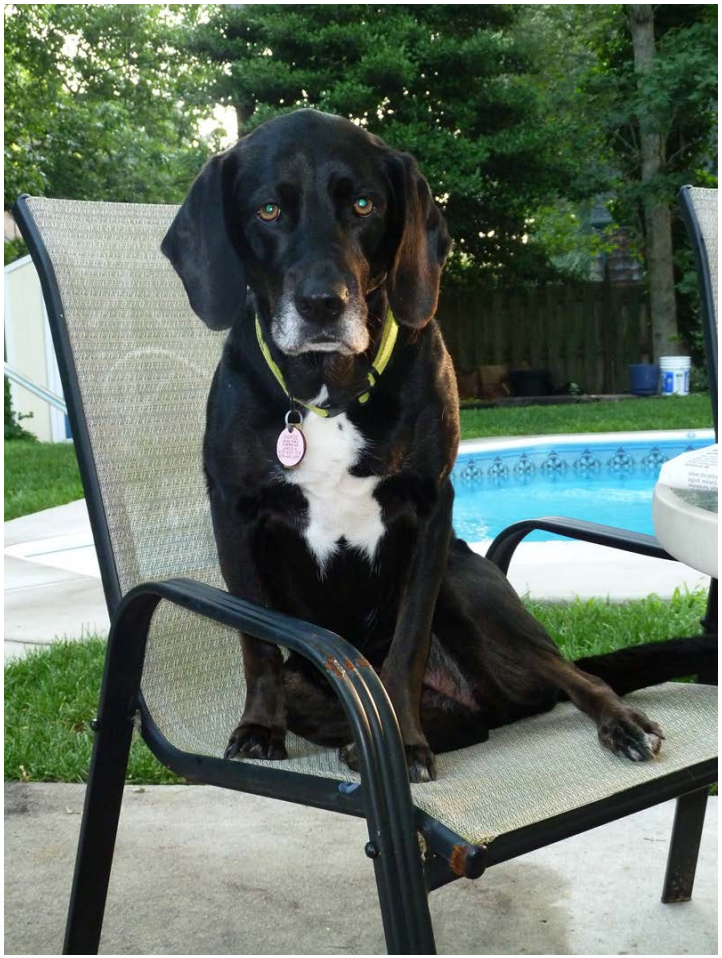
# Active Reading and Listening

***Come to this workshop to learn some strategies to get more out of your classes. Bring at least one of your textbooks with you and your notebooks that you use to take notes in class. We'll discuss how to save time and energy and improve your efficiency as a student. A very practical workshop, indeed!***

# Oh my gosh, sounds so dull



# But it won't be: key word is ACTIVE

# That's the key to active listening: staying active and alert in class

Like this:

# When you feel like this:

# I have 4 tips for staying actively focused in class

# Tip 1: put your cell phone away—far away

# Tip 2: **Sit up front**

# Tip 3: Ask at least one question per class

# Tip 4: write write write

# But how? How do I take notes?

- Create a written record of that day's class
- What happened first?
- What was on the board?
- What questions did students have?
- Why is this class so boring?
- What question can I think to ask?

# Here's a sample

- *Pam went over homework*
- *Student asked question about what would be on quiz.*
- *Pam blathered on about nothing*
- *Showed a PP on note taking (available on BB)*
- *Kid behind me burped*
- *Pam scolded kid who was sleeping*
- *Discussion about our projects: reminder that they are due October 21—must work with a tutor at least once during the process*
- *Break*
- *Back from break—this on board: blah blah blah*

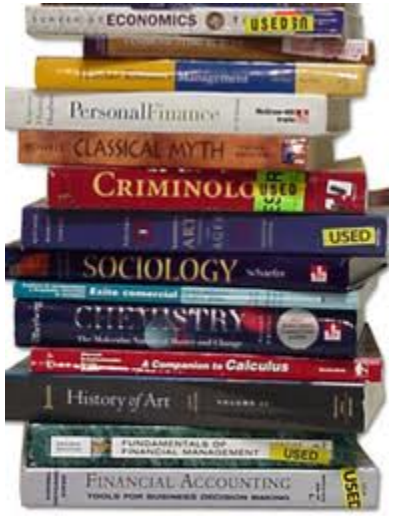
# After class

- Type up your notes.
- Compare with classmates.
- Go to Blackboard.
- Do you do this?

# Part 2 of presentation: active reading

- Some texts are easier to read than others
- Organization
- Presentation of content material
- Writing style
- Subject matter
- Your interest in the subject matter

# Let's talk textbooks



# Tips for texts

- Give your self enough time
- Give yourself a break (or a few)
- Think about the chapter title
- Note the headings
- Note the words in bold
- Read the chapter summaries
- Use the review questions at the end
- OK to skim as long as you can answer the questions at the end.

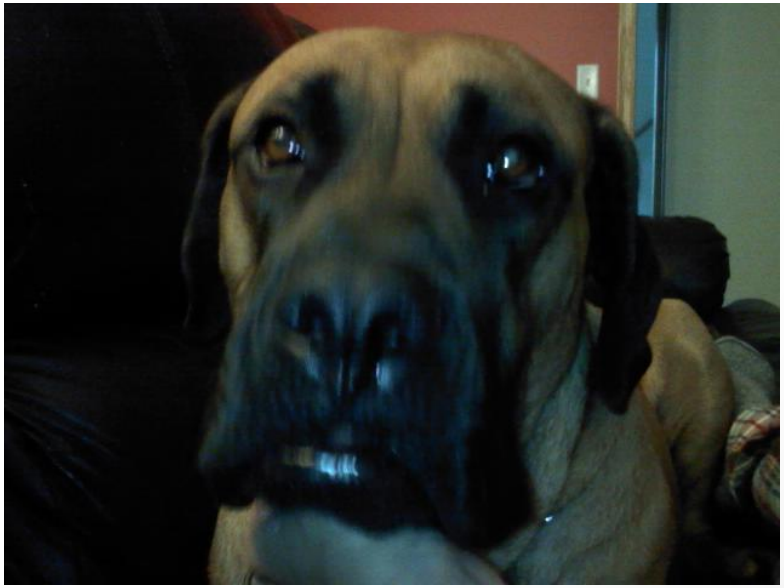
# Tips for other texts

- **Google**
- *Did she just say Google?*
- **Wikipedia, too!**
- *She did not just say that?*
- **What's this reading about? Is there any help out there?**
- **Read a review or two—not to cheat, just to get a sense of what you should be getting from the reading.**
- **Read with a pen in your hand**
- **Stop and summarize every page or so**
- **Stop and re-read if you need t.o**

# Tips in general

- Always read with a pen in your hand—not a highlighter, which is too passive.
- Skim—get the gist.
- Fake it till you make it.
- Accept partial understanding of tough material.
- Be ready with specific questions.
- Visit the Tutoring Center with your questions.
- Visit the professor during office hours.

# Enough of me—what about you?

- ***What gets in your way as a student?***
- ***What behaviors should you change?***
- ***What behaviors would you like your professors to change?***

***Right, good luck with that.***