

KWL reading method

KWL is intended to be an exercise for a study group or class that can guide you in reading and understanding a text. You can adapt it to working alone, but discussions definitely help. It is composed of only three stages that reflect a worksheet of three columns with the three letters:

What we Know	what we Want to know	what we Learned

K stands for Know

This first stage may surprise you: Think first about, then list, what you know about the topic before reading! This advanced organizer provides you with a background to the new material, building a scaffold to support it. Think of it as a pre-reading inventory.

- Brainstorm! Before looking at the text, think of keywords, terms, or phrases about the topic, either in your class or a study group.
- Record these in the *K* column of your chart until you cannot think of more.
- Engage your group in a discussion about what you wrote in the *K* column.
- Organize the entries into general categories.

W stands for Will or Want

The second stage is to list a series of questions of what you want to know more of the subject, based upon what you listed in *K*.

- Preview the text's table of contents, headings, pictures, charts etc. Discuss what you want to learn
- List some thoughts on what you want, or expect to learn, generally or specifically. Think in terms of what you will learn, or what do you want to learn about this.
- Turn all sentences into questions before writing them down. They will help you focus your attention during reading.
- List the questions by importance.

L stands for Learned

The final stage is to answer your questions, as well as to list what new information you have learned. Either while reading or after you have finished.

- List out what you learn as you read, either by section, or after the whole work, whichever is comfortable for you.
- Check it against the *W* column, what you wanted to learn
- Create symbols to indicate main ideas, surprising ideas, questionable ideas, and those you don't understand!