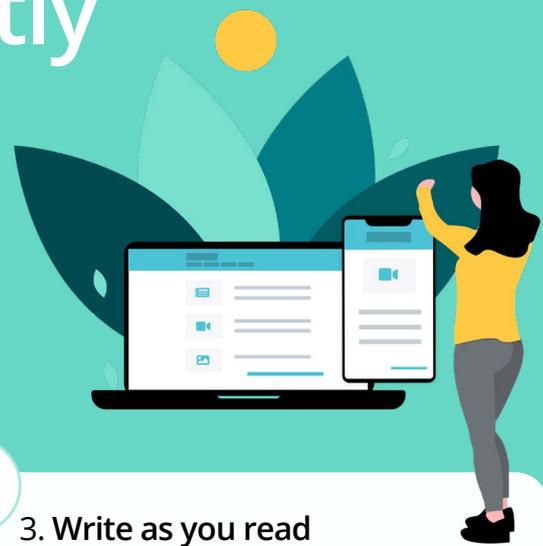


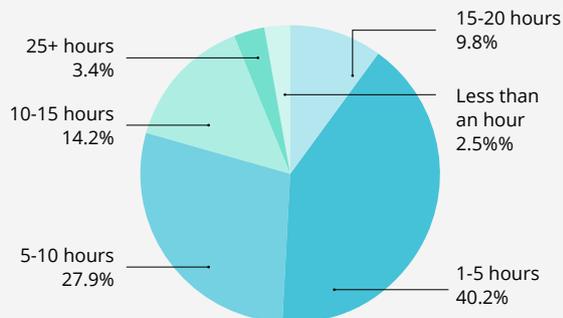
# 5 things students wish they'd done differently when reading



## 1. Dedicate more time to reading

- Schedule and prioritise time for reading during the week.
- Find a good environment for your reading where you can focus without distraction.

How much time do you dedicate to academic reading per week?



## 2. Go beyond the 'essential reading'

- Read around the subject and beyond required or 'essential' readings.
- Look at reading lists and bibliographies, or ask your tutors to find out what else you could read.
- Set up reading groups with your peers early in your course.
- Consider other media, such as podcasts or online videos to find out more about the topic.

*"Wish I had questioned how to read and actually thought about researching techniques and learned how to read more effectively, it was never really taught - we had a module on writing history but I don't remember focusing on reading and note-taking techniques."*

(Postgraduate, Humanities, UCL)



## 3. Write as you read

- Develop the habit of writing as you read.
- Identify the best mechanism to record your thinking about the reading, whether by annotating resources directly, taking notes in a separate document, or using a note-taking app.
- Don't just annotate, also summarise what you've found out when reading.
- Be selective: remember, you don't have to use everything that you've written, but some of it will likely be useful!



## 4. Don't be afraid to ask for help

- Reflect on your reading practices to think about how you might develop them.
- Seek guidance from your tutors on what is expected in your subject.
- Your library can offer a wide range of support on reading (and writing) skills and practices.



## 5. Collaborate

- This doesn't have to take place online - you can work on readings with your peers anywhere.
- It can also help to engage with texts using collaborative reading/annotation tools.