Textbook Reading Inventory

The following questions apply to textbook or other assigned readings you do.

**Before reading an assignment:**

- Are you sure you have understood the instructor's purpose in assigning this reading?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Do you know what the author's purpose in writing was?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Do you use the title, table of contents, or other parts of the book to see how the material relates to what you already know about the subject?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Do you use the headings and other signs provided by the author to help you get an overview of the assignment?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Do you have a sense of how difficult the assignment will be and approximately how long it will take to read?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

**While reading an assignment:**

- Can you distinguish between main ideas and supplementary details?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Are you able to concentrate on what you are reading?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

- Can you adjust to your reading speed depending on how easy or difficult the material is?
  
  Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____
• Are you able to mark the text to help you retain what you want to?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you make use of graphs, charts, diagrams, or pictures connected with the text?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you take enough breaks from your reading to keep from feeling fatigued?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you use skimming and/or scanning when you need to?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you have a method for dealing with difficult passages?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

After reading the assignment:
• Do you re-read the important main ideas and support facts?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you relate what you have read to what you have already learned in the course (from class work, other readings, etc.)?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you do any kind of summing up or putting into your own words what you have learned from the assignment?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Can you explain to someone else the important points of what you have just read?

      Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

• Do you remember what you read as long as you feel you need to?

    Usually _____ Sometimes _____ Never _____

Each one of the above items is an important step in really efficient reading. If you "usually" do each of these things, you should be reading well. If you only "sometimes" or "never" do a large percentage of these things, you should now have a guide to what areas you can improve on.