Useful Reading Strategies

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| Reading Strategy | Application |
| Text Format | Before reading a text in Spanish, first look at the format. Is it a story book, an article, a newspaper ad? Once you define the type of text it is ask yourself the following question: What type of information do I typically find in this kind of text? |
| Illustrations | Looking closely at the illustrations can give you some ideas of what the reading is about. |
| The title | Look at the words and the format of the title and see if it helps you define the topic of the reading. |
| Cognates | Cognates are words that look alike and have the same meaning both in English and Spanish. For example, family & *familia*…However watch out for the false cognates! An example of this is *pie* & pie. The word *pie* in English refers to a pastry, but pie in Spanish means foot. |
| Familiar elements  in word structure | Spanish and English grammar share many similarities. For example in both languages proper names are capitalized. Look at the text to find familiar elements that help you understand the message. |
| Background knowledge | Once you apply the above strategies think of what you know about the topic and try to make predictions on what the reading is about. |
| Context | Now that you know how to define the topic of a reading, use the context to guide you in understanding the details. For example, if you are reading a biography you know that the information provided relates to the life of the person. Most likely you will be learning about the person’s country of origin, family, likes and dislikes, etc… |