

Other Reading Strategies

► Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a strategy that helps you recognize and evaluate the knowledge you already have before you start reading. It works well individually or in groups. When you brainstorm, you start with a central term or idea, then quickly list all the words, phrases, and other ideas that you think are related to it.

Because there are no “right” or “wrong” answers, you can use the list as a basis for classifying terms, developing a general explanation, or speculating about new relationships. For example, you might brainstorm a list of terms related to the word *element* before you read Chapter 1, Section 2. The list might include gold, metals, chemicals, silver, carbon, oxygen, and water. As you read the textbook, you might decide that some of the terms you listed are *not* elements. Later, you might use that information to help you distinguish between elements and compounds.

► Building/Interpreting Vocabulary

Using a dictionary to look up the meanings of prefixes and suffixes as well as word origins and meanings helps you build your vocabulary and interpret what you read. If you know the meaning of prefixes like *kilo-* (one thousand) and *milli-* (one thousandth), you have a good idea what kilograms, kilometers, milligrams, and millimeters are and how they are different. (See page 35 for a list of SI Prefixes.)

Knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and word origins can help you understand the meaning of new words. For example, if you know the suffix *-protic* comes from the same word as *proton*, it will help you understand what monoprotic and polyprotic acids are (see page 479).

► Reading Hints

Reading hints help you identify and bookmark important charts, tables, and illustrations for easy reference. For example, you may want to use a self-adhesive note to bookmark the period-

ic table on pages 140–141 or on the inside back cover of your book so you can easily locate it and use it for reference as you study different aspects of chemistry and solve problems involving elements and compounds.

► Interpreting Graphic Sources of Information

Charts, tables, photographs, diagrams, and other illustrations are graphic, or visual, sources of information. The labels and captions, together with the illustrations help you make connections between the words and the ideas presented in the text.

► Reading Response Logs

Keeping a reading response log helps you interpret what you read and gives you a chance to express your reactions and opinions about what you have read. Draw a vertical line down the center of a piece of paper. In the left-hand column, write down or make notes about passages you read to which you have reactions, thoughts, feelings, questions, or associations. In the right-hand column, write what those reactions, thoughts, feelings, questions, or associations are. For example, you might keep a reading response log when studying about Nuclear Energy in Chapter 21.

