A yellow pencil with a sharpened lead tip lies diagonally across the bottom of the frame. It is resting on a stack of books with white pages and a blue cover. The background is a soft-focus view of the book's pages.

Making Sense of What You Read

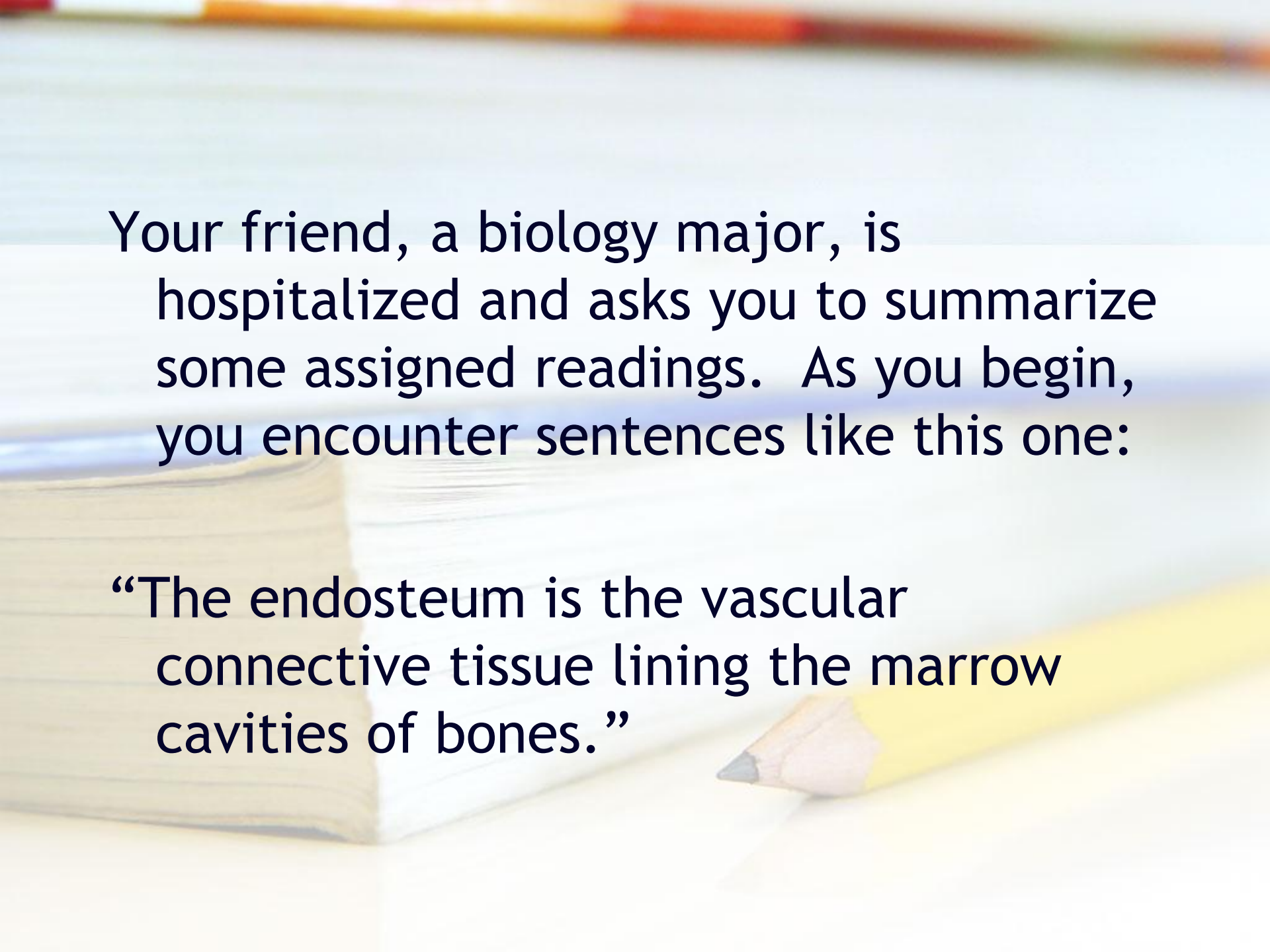
Strategies for Success in All Your
College Courses!

Yes, you can read...but...

Just because you have adequate language proficiency in one situation doesn't mean you have it in another situation.

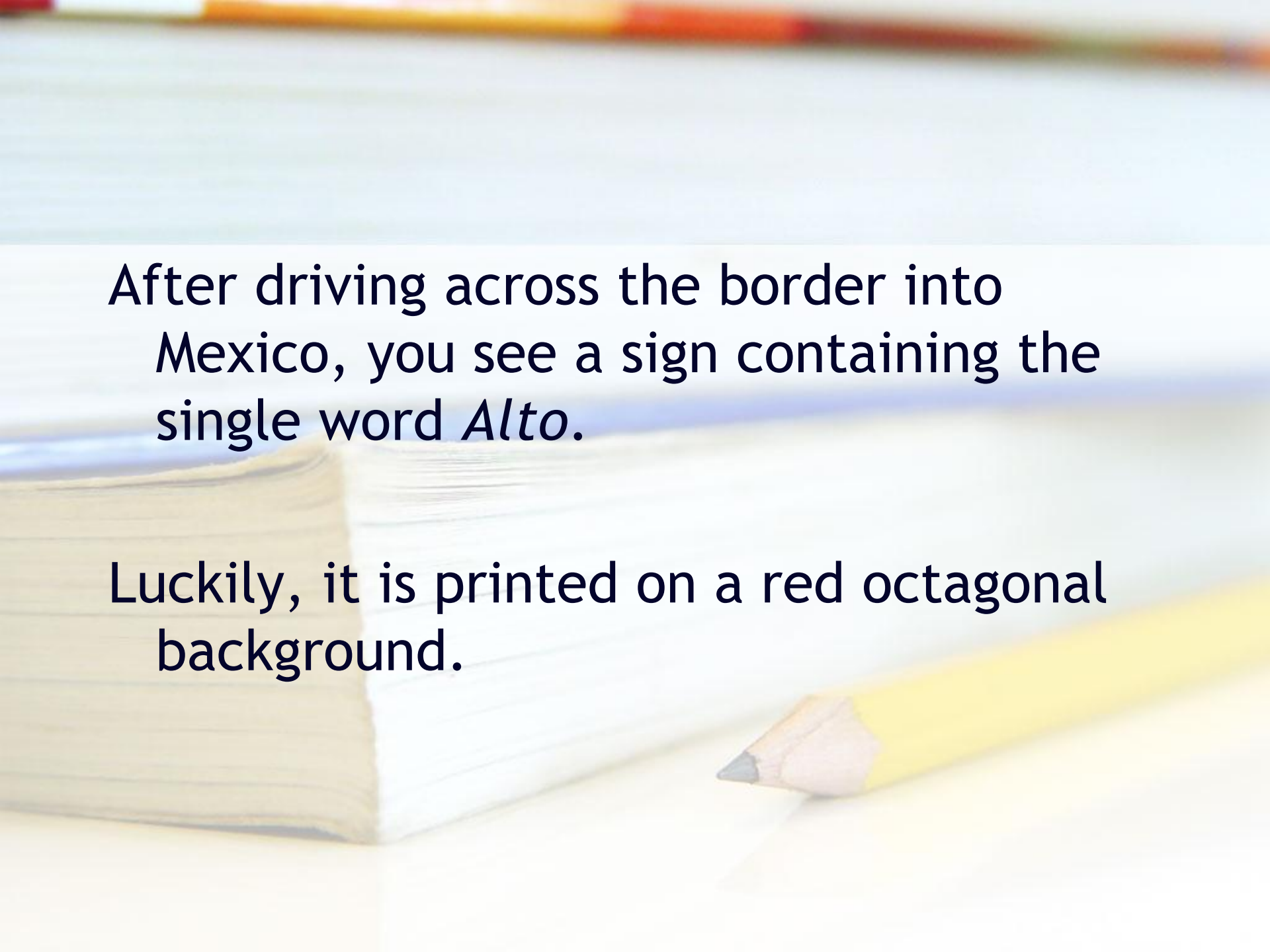
Check this out...



The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of an open book with white pages and a yellow pencil with a sharpened lead tip, resting on the book's surface. The lighting is bright and even, creating a clean, academic atmosphere.

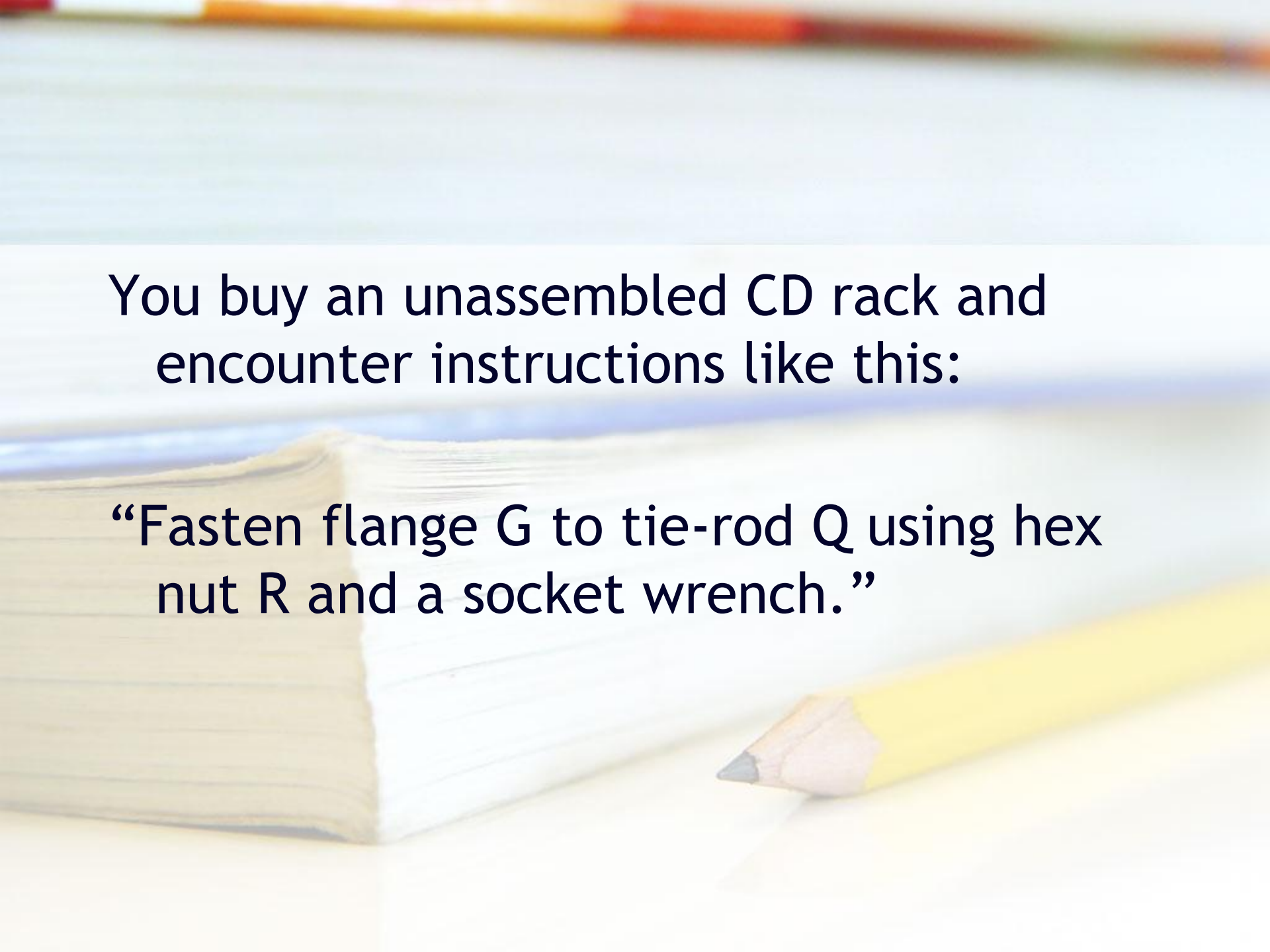
Your friend, a biology major, is hospitalized and asks you to summarize some assigned readings. As you begin, you encounter sentences like this one:

“The endosteum is the vascular connective tissue lining the marrow cavities of bones.”

The background of the slide features a blurred image of an open notebook with lined pages and a yellow pencil lying on the surface. The notebook is on the left, and the pencil is on the right, pointing towards the center. The overall scene is brightly lit, creating a soft, out-of-focus effect.

After driving across the border into Mexico, you see a sign containing the single word *Alto*.

Luckily, it is printed on a red octagonal background.

The background of the slide features a blurred image of an open book with white pages and a yellow pencil lying horizontally on a light-colored surface. The text is overlaid on this background.

You buy an unassembled CD rack and encounter instructions like this:

“Fasten flange G to tie-rod Q using hex nut R and a socket wrench.”

You read an e-mail message that contains the following:

To: MMCKENNA@gsvms2.cc.gasou.edu

Message-id:

01HVGZIZ04K28XCENEN@asu.edu

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Of course, it's *possible*...

...that your personal background makes one or more of those contexts no problem to comprehend at all.

Maybe you are a biology major.

Maybe you speak Spanish.

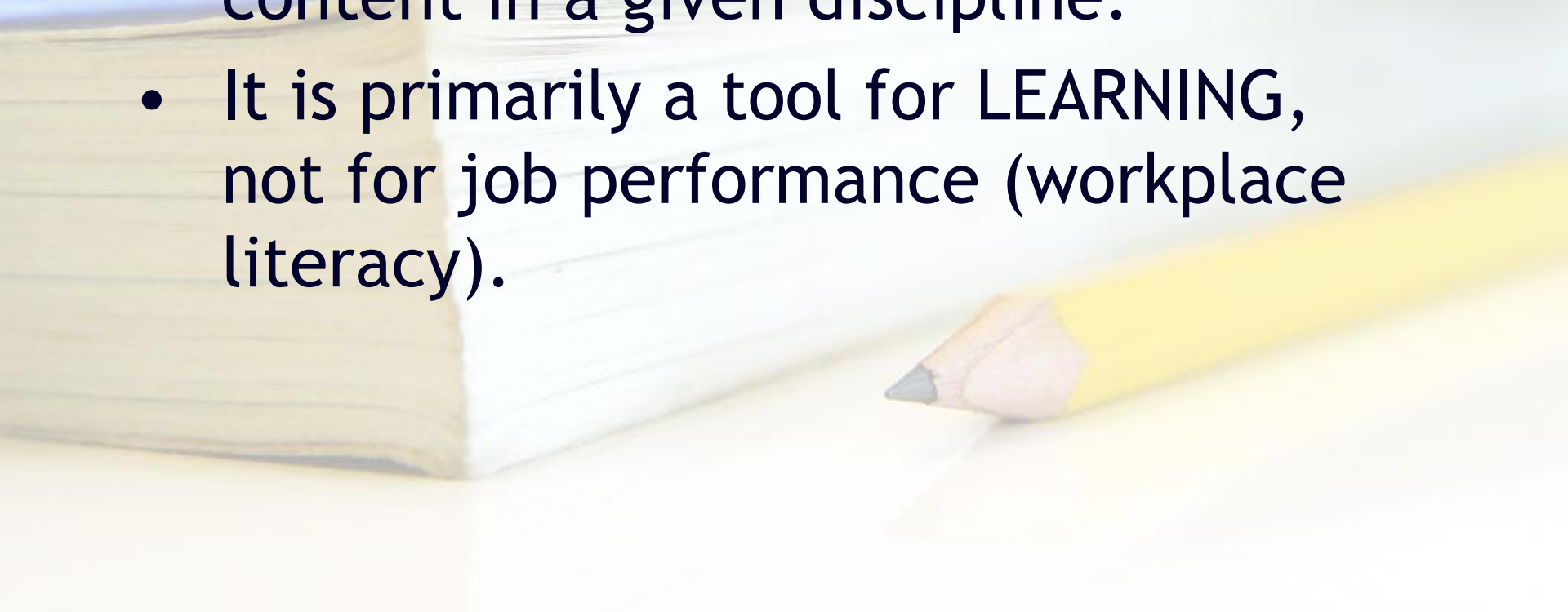
However, chances are...

that some of the situations presented difficulties precisely because you lacked the literacy skills required.

It proves that the same person can be literate in some contexts yet virtually *illiterate* in others.

Content Literacy

- Defined as the ability to use reading and writing for the acquisition of new content in a given discipline.
- It is primarily a tool for LEARNING, not for job performance (workplace literacy).

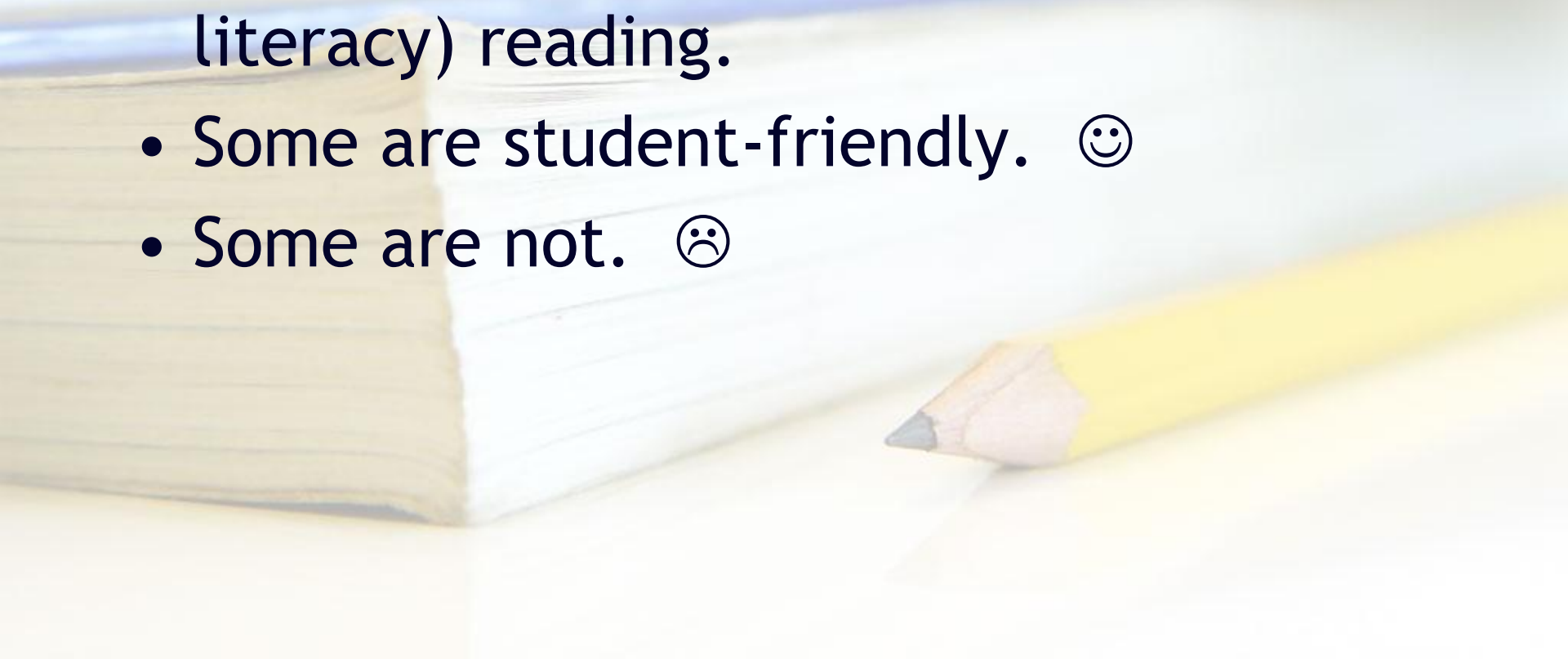


People seldom read a book
which is given to them.

-Samuel Johnson

Your College Textbooks

- Textbooks represent a significant portion of your academic (content literacy) reading.
- Some are student-friendly. 😊
- Some are not. 😞



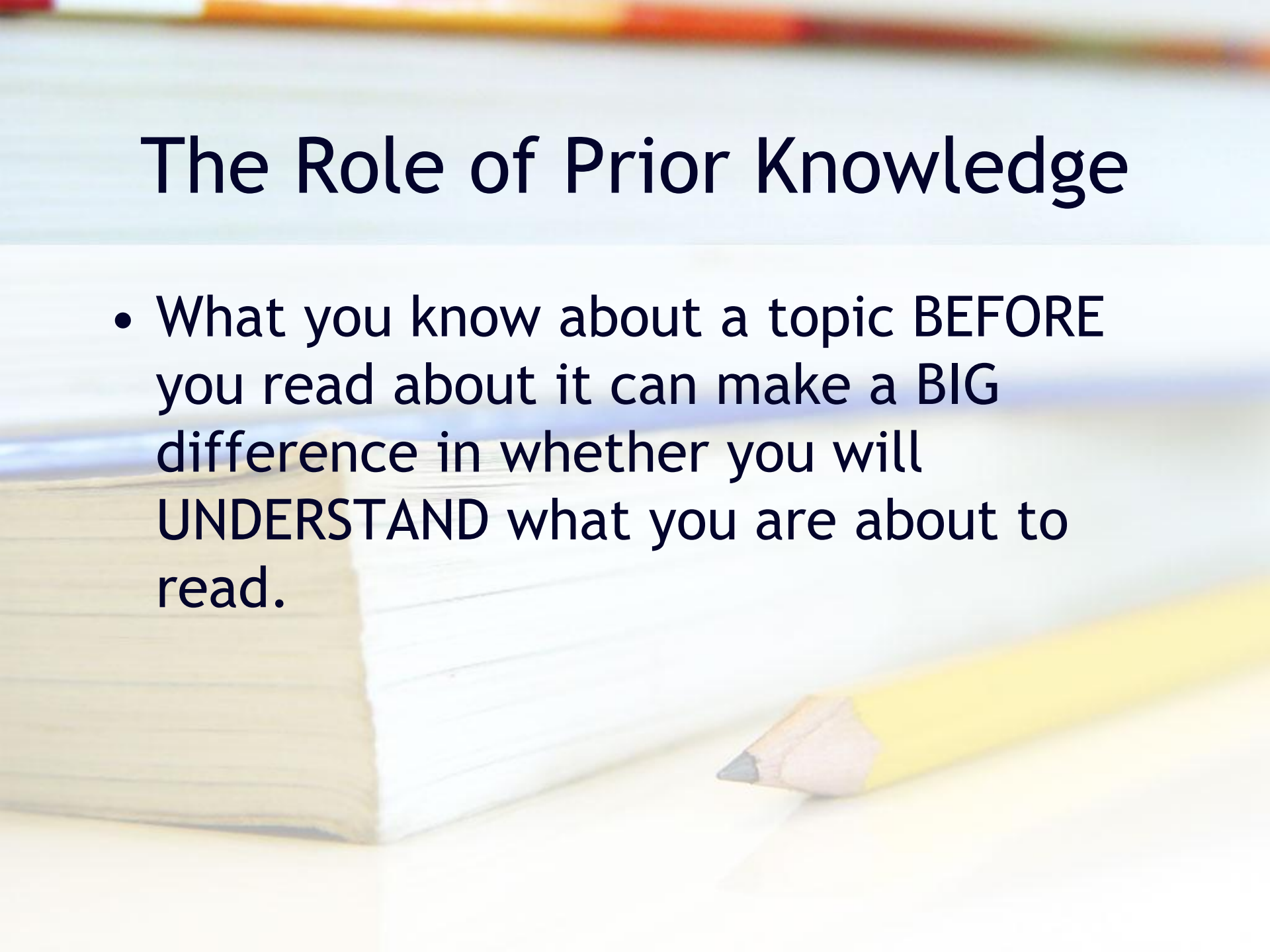
Your College Textbooks

With increasing sophistication of layouts and integration of internet links, you need to know **HOW** to read them and **STRATEGIES** to help you read them independently.



The Role of Prior Knowledge

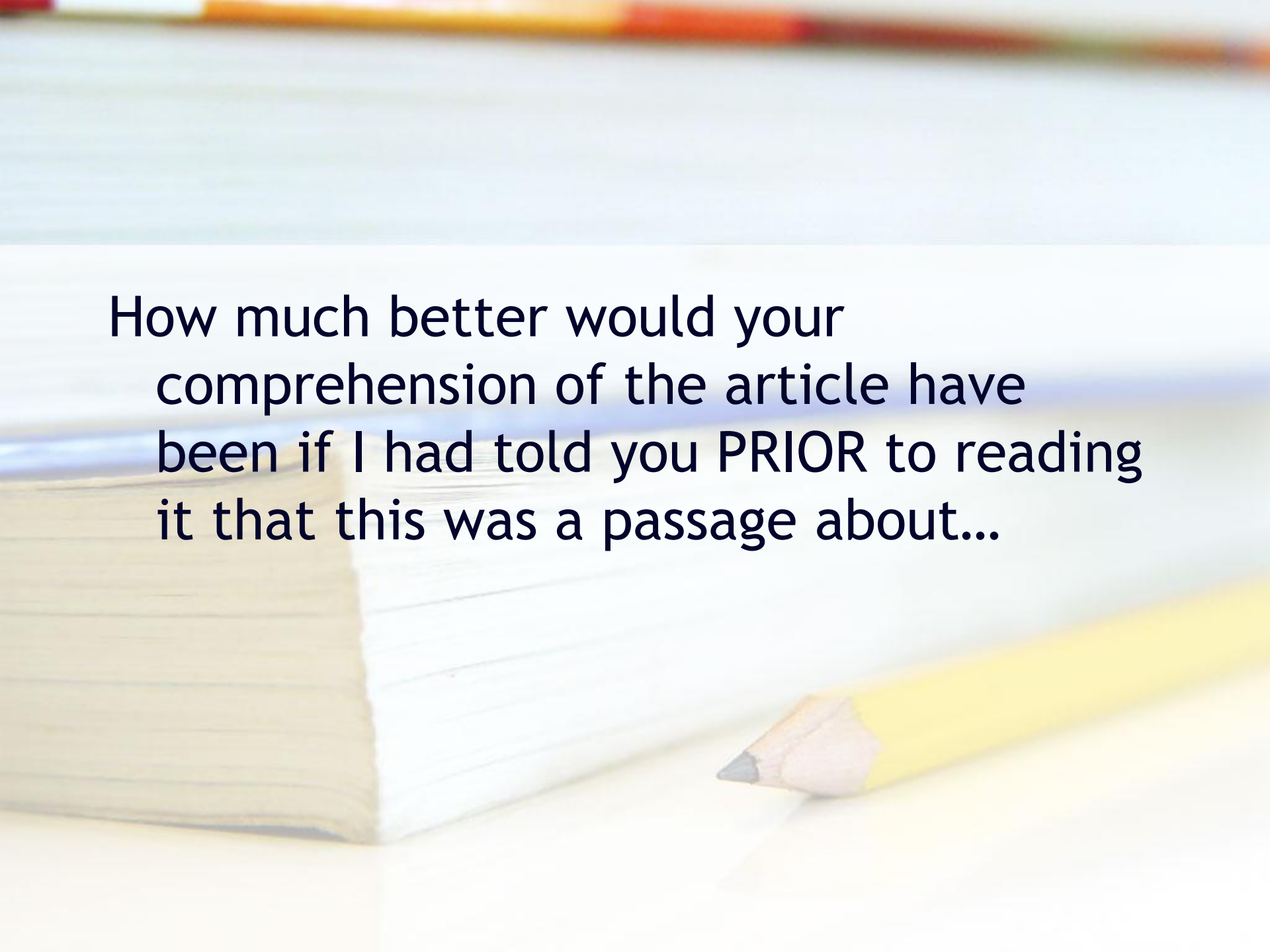
- What you know about a topic **BEFORE** you read about it can make a **BIG** difference in whether you will **UNDERSTAND** what you are about to read.



**Suppose the following article has
been assigned to be read...**



The procedure is actually quite simple. First you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient depending on how much there is to do. If you have to get somewhere else due to lack of facilities, that is the next step, otherwise you are pretty well set. It is important not to overdo things. That is, it is better to do too few things rather than too many. In the short run, this may not seem important, but complications can easily arise. A mistake can be expensive as well. At first the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just another facet of life. It is difficult to foresee any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but then one can never tell. After the procedure is completed, one arranges the materials in groups again. Then they can be put into their appropriate places. Eventually they will be used once more and the whole cycle will have to be repeated. However, this is part of life.

The background of the slide features a blurred image of a book with a yellow pencil resting on its pages. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

How much better would your
comprehension of the article have
been if I had told you PRIOR to reading
it that this was a passage about...

Washing Clothes!

Ah...the **POWER** of Prior Knowledge!

Adding to Prior Knowledge

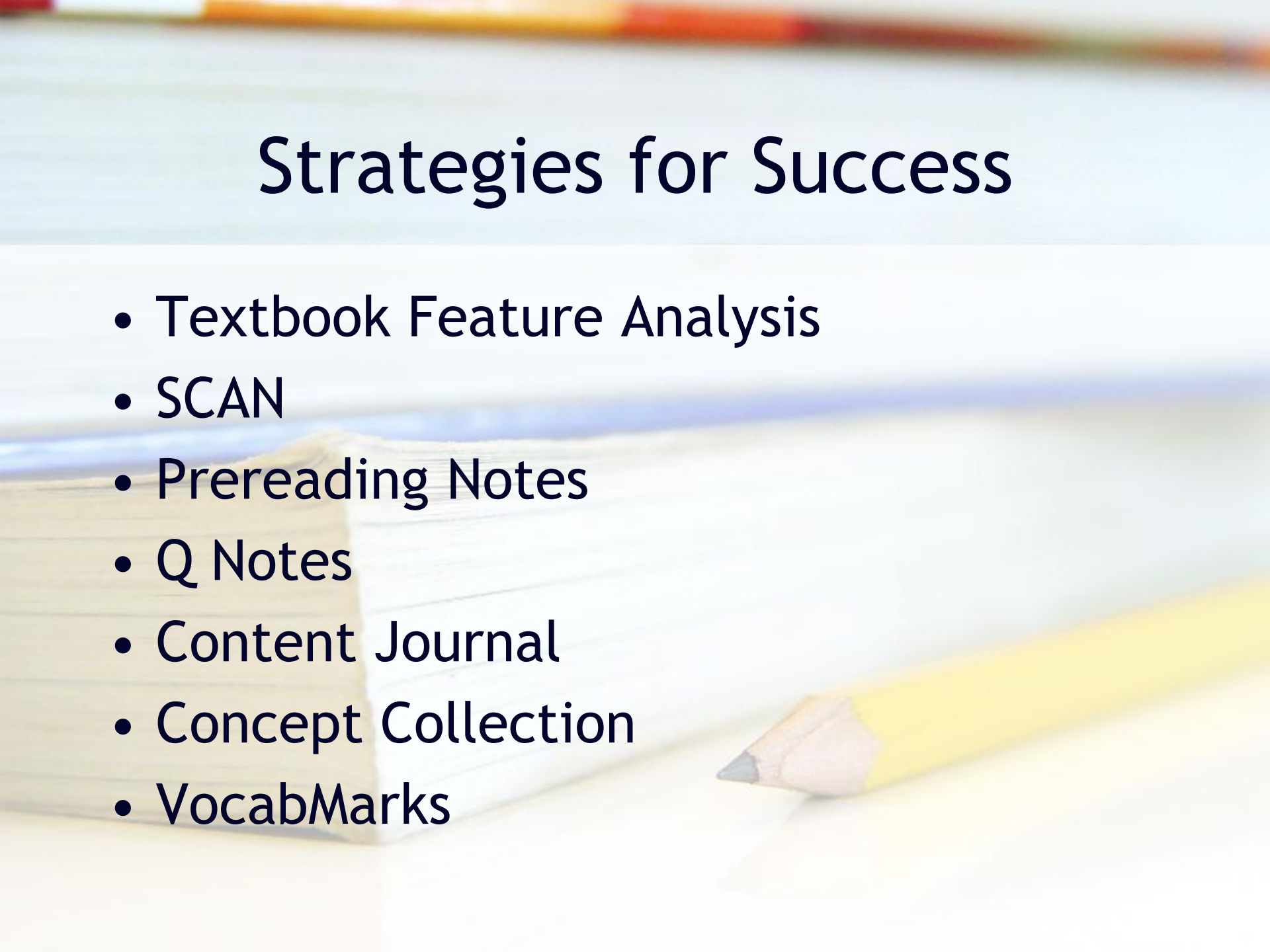
- **Organizational Walk-Throughs**

- It is often helpful for you to know in advance how the material in your textbook is organized.
- Consider the various types of organizing patterns: time order, comparison/contrast, cause and effect, problem solution, simple listing.
- Have in mind the proper skeletal framework into which details will eventually be fitted.

Know Your Textbook

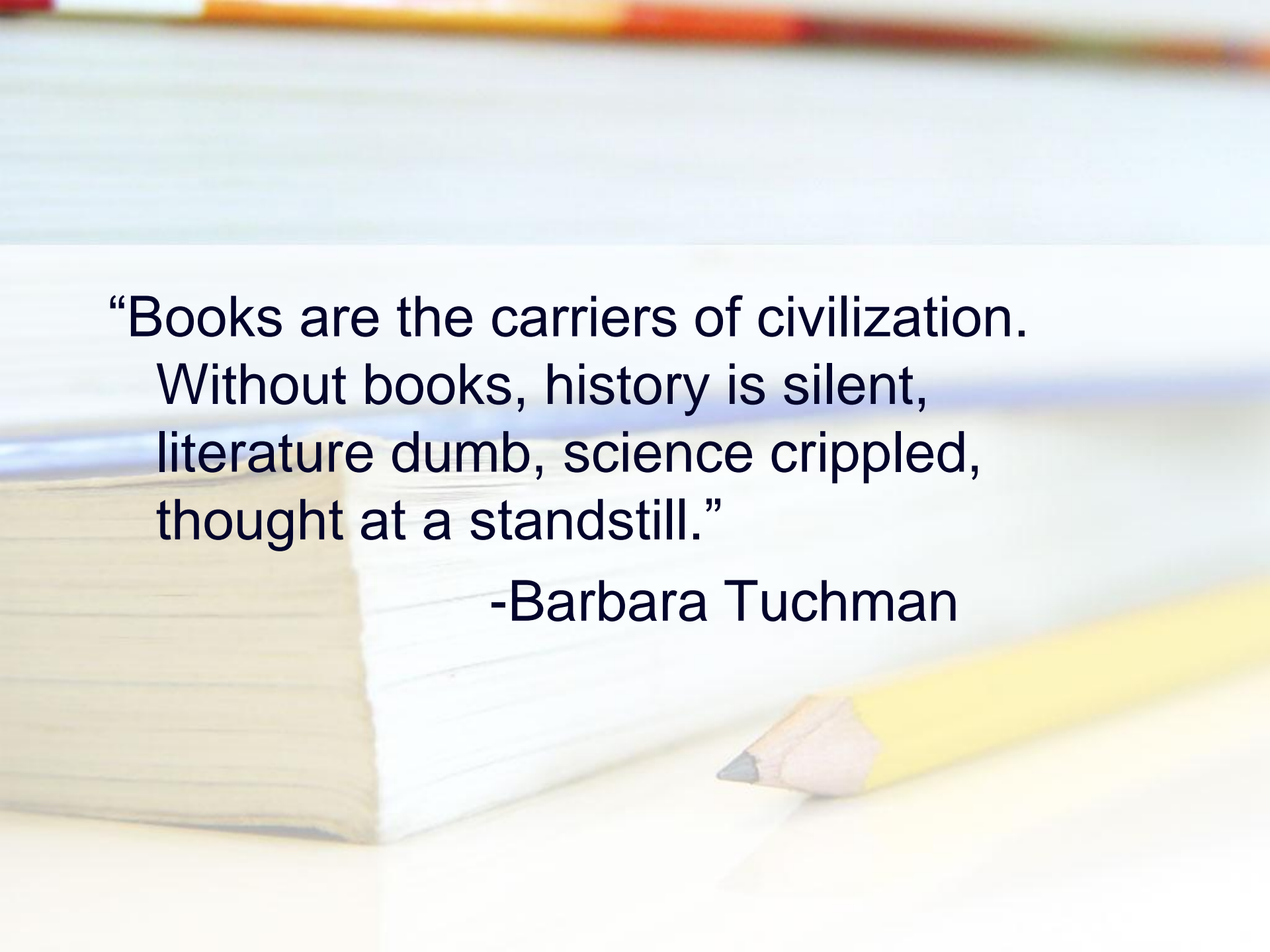
- How is it organized?
- Use these steps to help determine a pattern of organization:
 1. Analyze the chapter title.
 2. Analyze the subtitles.
 3. Analyze the visual aids.
 4. Read the introductory paragraph.
 5. Read the concluding paragraph.
 6. Derive the main idea.

Strategies for Success

- Textbook Feature Analysis
 - SCAN
 - Prereading Notes
 - Q Notes
 - Content Journal
 - Concept Collection
 - VocabMarks
- 
- The background of the slide features a stack of books on the left and a yellow pencil lying horizontally on the right. The books are slightly out of focus, and the pencil is also blurred, creating a soft, educational atmosphere.

**Your textbook is your
friend.**



The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of an open book with white pages and a yellow pencil lying horizontally across the bottom right. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the book's pages.

**“Books are the carriers of civilization.
Without books, history is silent,
literature dumb, science crippled,
thought at a standstill.”**

-Barbara Tuchman