



SQ3R Reading Method

Teaching Study Skills & Strategies in College (Iannuzzi, Strichart & Mangrum, 1983)

SQ3R is a reading strategy to help improve your reading comprehension. The following steps describe how you can approach reading a chapter assigned in a textbook.

Step 1: SURVEY

Before you begin reading, survey the textbook chapter.

- Read the TITLE to anticipate what the chapter covers.
- Read the INTRODUCTION in the beginning of the chapter for a preview.
- Read the SIDE HEADINGS to review main concepts of the chapter.
- Examine any VISUALS (graphs, tables) and associated CAPTIONS.
- Read the SUMMARY or CONCLUSION to confirm your ideas.

Step 2: QUESTION

Formulate questions to think about and answer as you are reading. Write your questions in the margins of your textbook or in a notebook.

- Key questions: Think about the 5 "W"'s – WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?
- Begin to draw conclusions as to HOW this chapter relates to your class.
- Use your syllabus as a guide.

Step 3: READ

Look for the answers to your questions you formulated. Skim, read, and reread material. Write down your textbook notes IN YOUR OWN WORDS in an outline or graphic organizer format.

Step 4: REMEMBER

Go back to Step 1 (Survey) and see if you are able to summarize what the chapter covers in your own words. Use techniques like repetition, mnemonics or graphic organizers to help you to remember the information. Write down 1-2 questions or comments you can bring to class for discussion.

Step 5: REVIEW

Periodically review the information before and after class. Reviewing a little bit each day will help you to store the information in your long-term memory. Avoid cramming before exams!