

“SQ3R” LEARN this Effective Reading Plan

Before you read - - See the “Big Picture” of the Textbook

“S” Survey

- Skim Table of Contents of textbook to see the author’s scope and where this chapter fits in that scheme.
- The title, headings, subheadings, all the underlined, italicized, bold printed words
- Captions under pictures, charts and graphs or maps
- Review questions or teacher-made study guides
- Introductory and concluding paragraphs
- Summary sections & questions or points at end of chapters

“Q” Question

- Turn the title, headings and/or subheadings into questions
- Read questions at end of the chapters or after each subheading
- Use study guides provided by your instructor
- Ask, “What did my instructor say about this chapter or subject when it was assigned?” or “What do I already know about this subject?”

Use the “3Rs”

“R” Read

- Active Reading Saves Time: think about topics & questions from above “S” and “Q” as you read and focus on comprehension goals for the topics of each section.
- As you read, look for answers to questions at the end of the chapter or the ones that you wrote down & highlight and underline answers.
- Highlight and underline important points.
- Reduce speed for difficult content and reread unclear passages.
- Break long chapters into smaller sections to better comprehend.

“R” Recite

- Write a summary of what you just read (from memory, if possible)
- Verbally study the main points. *Hearing & speaking create different memory hooks from seeing.*
- Recite the information aloud in your own words.

“R” Review

- Target items you highlighted, underlined, or made notes about in margins.
- Explain as much as possible from memory. Reread sections about which you are unsure.
- Make “flash cards” for Q / A – esp. those that are most difficult.
- Develop memory devices for material which need to be memorized
- Alternate between your flash cards, book markings, & class notes.
- Using your own notes, create a list of important concepts and sub-topics
- Study with classmates to review & quiz each other, teach the concepts, and hear others explain information – esp. for difficult material.
- Once a week spend at least 30 minutes skimming textbook, highlights & notes, along with your class notes.