

SQ3R Read on Purpose

SQ3R is a reading technique you can use to get more out of your college reading. It can help you retain information, increase your understanding of the topic, and save you time when you go back to study. The steps of the method include Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review. You will be more successful if instead of just reading, you follow the steps below.

1. Survey

- Look at the table of contents
- Read the chapter outline
- Skim the chapter introductions
- Look at tables, charts, and pictures in the reading
- Look at the glossary and index
- Read the summary at the end of the chapter

2. Question

- Ask yourself what you know about the topic
- Ask yourself what you want to know about the topic
- Write down questions you have about the chapter heading and what you want to learn from reading the chapter

3. Read

- Focus on the key points in the chapter
- Pay attention to headings, boldface, objectives, and the summary
- Annotate and write in your text
- Keep your questions in mind and look for the answers as you read
- Reread any section you wish to get more information from

4. Recite

- Write down answers to your questions
- Recite the answers to your questions
- Write a short summary of the chapter
- Compare your summary to the chapter summary

5. Review

- Reread your notes
- Review and summarize
- Scan for key points and main concepts
- Answer review questions and reread section, if you cannot answer the question
- Reread the preface, headings, tables, and summary
- Go over vocabulary and key terms from the reading
- If you are unsure of a definition, find the definition in the reading
- Make Flashcards
- Quiz yourself
- Review with classmates