



Reading Comprehension

SQ3R Reading Strategy

Developed by Jamie A. Hughes, South Campus Learning Center, Communications Lab 04-25-05
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SQ3R - A READING/STUDY SYSTEM

SURVEY - gather the information necessary to focus and formulate goals.

Before you read, survey:

- the title, headings, and subheadings
- captions under pictures, charts, graphs or maps
- review questions or teacher-made study guides
- introductory and concluding paragraphs
- summary

QUESTION - help your mind engage and concentrate.

Ask yourself while you're surveying:

- Turn the title, headings, and/or subheadings into questions;
- Read questions at the end of the chapters or after each subheading;
- Ask yourself, "What did my instructor say about this chapter or subject when it was assigned?"
- Ask yourself, "What do I already know about this subject?"

READ - fill in the information around the mental structures you've been building.

When you begin to read:

- Look for answers to the questions you first raised;
- Answer questions at the beginning or end of chapters or study guides
- Reread captions under pictures, graphs, etc.
- Note all the underlined, italicized, bold printed words or phrases
- Study graphic aids
- Reduce your speed for difficult passages
- Stop and reread parts which are not clear

Remember to read only a section at a time and recite after each section!

RECITE - retrain your mind to concentrate and learn as it reads.

After you read, stop after each section and:

- Orally ask yourself questions about what you have just read and/or summarize, in your own words, what you read
- Take notes from the text but write the information in your own words
- Underline/highlight important points you've just read
- Use the method of recitation which best suits your particular learning style but remember, the more senses you use the more likely you are to remember what you read.

REVIEW - refine your mental organization and begin building memory.

Once you've finished the entire chapter using the preceding steps, go back over all the questions from all the headings. See if you can still answer them. If not, look back and refresh your memory, then continue. Try a schedule like this:

- Day One
After you have read and recited the entire chapter, write questions for those points you have highlighted/underlined in the margins. If your method of recitation included note-taking in the left hand margins of your notebook, write questions for the notes you have taken.
- Day Two
Page through the text and/or your notebook to re-acquaint yourself with the important points. Cover the right hand column of your text/note-book and orally ask yourself the questions in the left hand margins. Orally recite or write the answers from memory. Make "flash cards" for those questions which give you difficulty. Develop mnemonic devices for material which need to be memorized.
- Days Three, Four and Five
Alternate between your flash cards and notes and test yourself (orally or in writing) on the questions you formulated. Make additional flash cards if necessary.
- Weekend
Using the text and notebook, make a Table of Contents - list all the topics and sub-topics you need to know from the chapter. From the Table of Contents, make a Study Sheet/ Spatial Map. Recite the information orally and in your own words as you put the Study Sheet/Map together.