

# SQ3R reading method

SQ3R is a reading strategy formed from its letters:

**Survey! Question! Read! Recite! Review!**

SQ3R will help you build a framework to understand your reading assignment.

Before you read, Survey the chapter:

- 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 while you are 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?"  
**Note:** If it is helpful to you, write out these questions for consideration. This variation is called SQW3R

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
- Read only a section at a time and recite after each section

Recite after you've read a section:

- Orally ask yourself questions about what you have just read, or summarize, in your own words, what you read
- Take notes from the text but write the information in your own words
- Underline or highlight important points you've just read

- Reciting:  
The more senses you use the more likely you are to remember what you read  
Triple strength learning: Seeing, saying, hearing  
Quadruple strength learning: Seeing , saying , hearing, writing!!!

**Review: an ongoing process**

**Day One**

- After you have read and recited the entire chapter, write questions in the margins for those points you have highlighted or underlined.
- If you took notes while reciting, write questions for the notes you have taken in the left hand margins of your notebook.

**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.
- Develop mnemonic devices for material which need to be memorized. Make flash cards for those questions which give you difficulty.

**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.
- As you have consolidated all the information you need for this chapter, periodically review the Sheet/Map so that at test time you will not have to cram.

**Based upon Robinson, Francis Pleasant. (1970) Effective study. New York: Harper & Row.**