



# SQ3R READING STRATEGY

Reading for Efficiency & Comprehension

## SURVEY

How: Skim the entire text. Look over introduction, section headings, images (charts, graphs, captions), bolded or italicized text, and summary.

*This will give you a big picture of the material & help you decide what's really important.*

## QUESTION

How: As you survey, turn each of the section headings into questions (what? who? why? how?). Ask yourself what you already know about the subject. Consider jotting questions in the margin. *This keeps you focused on the text & identifies what you already know v. what you need to know.*

## READ

How: Break down the text to read one section at a time. Look for answers to your questions. Adjust your speed based on the difficulty of the passage. Make notes of important concepts. *This gives you the necessary information to prepare for class lectures, discussions, and exams!*

## RECITE

How: After reading a section, **verbalize** what you have read in your own words, **write** note cards of relevant terms/concepts, explain how the ideas connect to one another. *This helps you learn and retain the information and checks your comprehension as you go.*

## REVIEW

How: Look over notes or questions from your reading often; compare them to lecture notes. Quiz yourself on the material. Revisit main points. *This instills the information in your long term memory and prepares you for papers and exams.*



# HELPFUL HINTS

## Implementing SQ3R

### FIRST

Surveying the text is especially important when you don't feel you have enough time for the reading. Focus on the items that seem to be most emphasized in the text or that you don't already understand.

### SECOND

Give yourself short breaks between each section. Consider reading for 25 minutes at a time and taking a 5-10 minute break before moving to the next.

### THIRD

If you get stuck on a difficult text:

- a. Try identify specifically what the difficulty is (where exactly did you get stuck?).
- b. Restate the confusing passage aloud & in your own words.
- c. Re-read the previous passage and/or read ahead for context.
- d. Consider taking a short break and coming back to the text.
- e. If you're still stuck, take note of your question to discuss with your professor, tutor, or study group.

### FOURTH

Interact with the text as much as possible to stay engaged and to retain the information - recite concepts verbally, write notes or flash cards, draw concept maps, and ask questions as you read!