

SQ3R Method Explained

Step 1: Survey

Take a quick look at the entire assigned reading. **Skim** the title, headings and subheadings. If your reading includes them, look through the summaries and review questions at the end of each section. Note graphics, italics, boldface type and other devices the author uses to highlight important information. Based on this quick survey, make predictions about what you think the author is going to say. Write these predictions down.

Step 2: Question

Change each heading and subheading into a question or series of questions that the author will answer in the section. The better your questions, the better you'll understand the material when you read it thoroughly. Write these questions out. You'll use these questions as an outline to organize the notes you'll take while reading the material closely.

Step 3: Read

Read one section at a time, making brief notes that answer the questions you've written down in step 2. Your notes should be short--don't worry about grammar, spelling or punctuation. You may need to develop additional questions to organize your information.

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Step 4: Recite (Or Recall)

After each section, stop and try to recall the information from memory. Look at the questions you identified in step 2. Without looking at your notes, state out loud (this is important) the answers to those questions. If you can't recall the answers from memory, reread the section, refine your notes and repeat this step. Don't move onto the next section of your reading until you can recite the new information from memory.

Step 5: Review

When you're finished reading, making notes, and reciting/recalling each section, look back over your entire reading assignment. Review the questions for each section and without looking at your notes, recite (out loud) the answers. If you can't remember all the answers, reread that section, review your notes and repeat this step. Return to the predictions you made in the first (Survey) step. How many are accurate?