

# SQR3 Method for Reading a Text

## How to Read Textbooks

Use the SQR3 method of reading to be an active and effective reader. The passive reader learns little. The aggressive reader organizes information and answers questions. SQR3: survey, question, read, recite, review.



## The SQR3 Method of Reading

**S**urvey the chapter—*Read the introduction to the chapter*

- Look over the major section headings. Glance at the figures.
- Skim questions, key words, and summaries at the end of the chapter.
- Create a context for remembering information.
- Generate interest and a sense of what is important.
- Plan your study session. Set a time limit for working. Include breaks and rewards.

**Q**uestion—Create and answer questions; *For each section in the chapter, ask these 4 basic questions:*

1. What is the main point?
2. What evidence supports the main point?
3. What are the applications or examples?
4. How is this related to the rest of the chapter, the book, the world, to me?

**R**ead the section

- Skim or read the section actively. Search for the answers to your questions.
- Take notes in the margins to create your own organization (see below).

**R**ecite the main points

- Look up from the book and verbalize the answers to your questions.
- Talk out loud and listen to the answers. Recite to remember.

**R**eview

- Now go back and highlight or underline the main points in the section.
- Add more notes in the text and margin.
- Repeat SQR3 for each section: mini survey, question, read, recite, and review. When finished, create a one page hierarchical summary of the entire chapter.
- Now do any homework assignments. Use your summary first, then the text.
- Review often and reward yourself for a job well done.