



COLLEGE OF IDAHO

The SQ3R Method

Purpose

Developed in 1941 by Francis Robinson (Ohio State), SQ3R is an active reading and study method that has been used to enhance reading comprehension and learning efficiency. This model works well to introduce pre-, during-, and post-reading teaching ideas.

Part One: Survey

Encourage students to:

- Survey the entire chapter or section before they start reading so that they can become familiar with what will be presented and determine how much time they will need.
- Look at the title and all subtitles to know what the chapter or section is about and how it is divided into smaller sections. Label major headings with Roman numerals or letters and subheadings with capital letters or numbers to show the relationship between topics.
- Look at the chapter outline, if available—this is the blueprint to the chapter.
- Look at the end of the chapter aids, if present, e.g. questions, summaries. These will provide students with an idea of what the author think is important and help them select the main ideas as they read.
- Read the introduction and/or first paragraph first—this will usually reveal the purpose of the chapter.
- Read the last paragraph—this will summarize the key information, especially in non-fiction texts.
- Look to see how important terminology is presented (in bold or italics). If there is a lot of terminology, then use index cards or notes to create a terminology index as they read.

Part Two: Question

Encourage students to:

- Turn the subheadings into questions so that their mind is actively looking for answers rather than passively reading along.
- Create questions from information printed in the margins.
- Create questions for each graph or chart presented.
- Write out the questions so that as students read they can periodically look at the questions and stop to see if they can recall the information.
- Reread the questions provided by the instructor.
- Reread questions on assignment sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Part Three: Read

As they read each paragraph, encourage students to:

- Identify the topic, i.e., usually an idea that is repeated once or twice.
- Find the main idea and underline it, i.e., the sentence that summarizes the details.
- Look for the supporting details: key words, small groups of words. Make sure the details refer to the same main point.
- Take notes while reading. (This is an additional step to SQ3R which would change it to SQW3R.)
 - Write notes in the margins of your book or text.
 - Write by filling in gaps in notes from class discussion of the topic and/or text.
- Create an index card file of terms, definitions, etc.
- Write the answers to the questions students developed from the subheadings. They have now developed a practice quiz or test for the chapter.



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Part Four: Recite/Recall

Encourage students to:

- Paraphrase what they read out loud or in writing in order to enhance comprehension; present the information learned in a useable format; discover that which remains unclear; remember main ideas and relevant details; and avoid plagiarism when summarizing and analyzing the text in writing.
- Associate the reading's content with life experience for better recall.

Part Five: Review

Encourage students to:

- Organize all notes and readings logically and/or chronologically.
- Review their notes and questions created for the chapter daily/often.
- Review the highlighted areas of the text.
- Review the comments they made in the text while reading.
- Recite the main points of each section of the chapter and section.
- Review the index cards or notes of vocabulary and important concepts.
- Develop study aids, e.g., mnemonics for material.
- Create an outline from the text's subheadings, class notes, reading notes, margin comments, and the questions developed for each chapter/section. This will act as a study guide for a quiz, exam and/or paper. Recite the information, in their own words, daily to ensure automatic recall and deep learning. Check and recheck the information where they hesitate or are not able to recall specific/relevant details.