READING TO LEARN & REMEMBER—SQ3R

Survey-Question-Read-Recite-Review. These steps promote an active reading strategy and attitude toward learning. When you clear your mind for the task of studying, you are alert and centered. You make yourself ready to learn and remember.

SURVEY (5-10 minutes): After glancing through the titles, subtitles, tables, illustrations and summary ask yourself:

- What do I already know about this topic:

- What is the purpose for reading this article:

- What is this article about:

QUESTION (1-2 minutes per question): Before reading the chapter develop at least 3 questions that you want to answer from the material. (Try to narrow your questions by using the subheadings)

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________

READ: Read a small section (e.g. a subheading) at a time: 1) make note of key items in the margins, and 2) develop a short outline of the chapter in your own words.

- Definitions
- Examples
- Lists
- Causes/ Effects
- Characteristics
- Similarities/ Differences
- Name/ Dates
- Formulas

RECITE: While looking away from the book answer the questions you developed:

1. _____________________________________________________________________________
2. _____________________________________________________________________________
3. _____________________________________________________________________________
4. _____________________________________________________________________________
5. _____________________________________________________________________________

What else do you remember?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

See next page →
REVIEW: When you have completed the entire chapter or assigned section, re-read your outline, look away and recite main ideas that were included in your questions and annotations. Continue this process until you feel that you understand and know the material.

For guidelines on how to effectively use the SQ3R, check out the “Guide to the SQ3R Method” at http://thinktank.arizona.edu/resources

Adapted from Francis P. Robinson

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