

Reading:

SQ3R

Academic Success Center
Iowa State University

Students committed to learning will find many possible paths to success. No path is error free, but the path best for you may not look like the same path as another student. For this reason, students should continuously assess their academic progress in courses and adjust their academic strategies accordingly.

While there is no magic formula, the following suggestions may improve your ability to succeed and increase your retention of knowledge.

SQ3R Reading Method

SQ3R is a reading strategy formed from its letters:

Survey! Question! Read! Recite! Review!

For more valuable information and helpful advice, please visit <http://www.studygs.net/texred2.htm>

SQ3R will help you build a framework to understand your reading assignment.

Before you read, Survey the chapter:

- the title, headings, and subheadings
- captions under pictures, charts, graphs or maps
- review questions or teacher-made study guides
- introductory and concluding paragraphs
- summary

Question while you are surveying:

- Turn the title, headings, and/or subheadings into questions
- Read questions at the end of the chapters or after each subheading
- Ask yourself,
"What did my instructor say about this chapter or subject when it was assigned?"
- Ask yourself,
"What do I already know about this subject?"
Note: If it is helpful to you, write out these questions for consideration.
This variation is called SQW3R

When you begin to Read:

- Look for answers to the questions you first raised
- Answer questions at the beginning or end of chapters or study guides
- Reread captions under pictures, graphs, etc.

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- Note all the underlined, italicized, bold printed words or phrases
- Study graphic aids
- Reduce your speed for difficult passages
- Stop and reread parts which are not clear
- Read only a section at a time and recite after each section

Recite after you've read a section:

- Orally ask yourself questions about what you have just read, or summarize, in your own words, what you read
- Take notes from the text but write the information in your own words
- Underline or highlight important points you've just read
- Reciting:
The more senses you use the more likely you are to remember what you read Triple strength learning: Seeing, saying, hearing

Review: an ongoing process with the following suggested ideas for learning. Here are some tips for reviewing the material.

Example:

Day 1

- Write questions in the margins or in your notebook for main points from textbook reading

Day Two

- Page through the text and/or your notebook to re-acquaint yourself with the important points.
- Cover the right hand column of your text/note-book and orally ask yourself the questions in the left hand margins.
- Develop mnemonic devices for material which need to be memorized. Make flash cards for those questions which give you difficulty.

Days Three, Four and Five

- Alternate between your flash cards and notes and test yourself (orally or in writing) on the questions you formulated. Make additional flash cards if necessary.

Weekend

- From the Table of Contents, make a Study Sheet/ Spatial Map Recite the information orally and in your own words as you put the Study Sheet/Map together.