

Critical Reading Skills

Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review (SQ3R Method)

Instructors know how important it is to get you to **read the textbook**. The textbook frequently provides the **essential material** to prepare you for classroom discussion and participation. Textbooks often contain **explanatory material** that the instructor uses as a **foundation**. Without the mortar, the foundation being built will not be suitable to withstand critical thinking or test evaluation.

This handout focuses on the SQ3R Method of reading and how to use it to get the most out of your textbooks. Find the best way that this method can work for you!

S = SURVEY

Determine the structure or organization of the chapter.

- Think about the title. Guess what will be included in the chapter.
- Read the introduction. The main ideas will help you understand or make sense of the details.
- Read the main-headings (boldface type). These are the main ideas.
- Read the summary. Here is the relationship among the main ideas.
- Read the questions at the end of the chapter. These will help you to identify important parts of the chapter.

Q = QUESTION

Turn each heading and subheading into a question. Especially while you are practicing this technique, write the questions down. This gives you a focal point for crystallizing a series of ideas (the answer). You are looking for something, not just looking at the words!

Take one section at a time. Keep answers brief and use your own words!

R1 = READ

Read only that section, looking for the answers to your questions. Move quickly. Sort out ideas and evaluate them. If content does not relate to the question, give it only a glance. **READ SELECTIVELY.**

R2 = RECITE

Answer the question in your own words, not the author's, then write the answer using only key words, listings, etc., that are needed to recall the entire idea. Follow the above technique for each section of the chapter. If you can't recall the answer, go back and reread the segment.

R3 = REVIEW

Once you've finished reading the entire chapter using the survey, question, read and recite steps, go back over all your questions. Cover the answers to the questions you've developed and written down and see if you can still recite them.

**This process will take some time at first, but it will get easier and faster with practice!
Give it some time so that it will save you time in the long-run!**