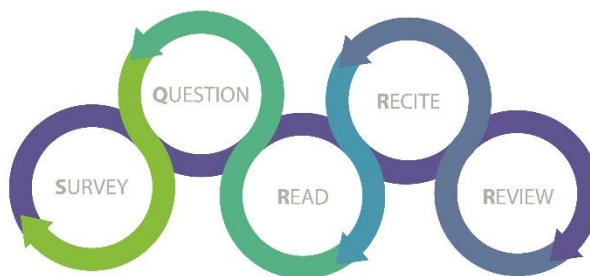


## Read Less, Learn More: How to Study College Texts

### What is SQ3R?

- New students often struggle with the volume of reading college requires
- Students seesaw between trying to read everything, but poorly, or becoming overwhelmed and not doing the reading at all
- Passive, rote reading often accomplishes nothing, waists valuable study time, and leads to endless re-reading and frustration
- SQ3R is reading strategy that attempts to resolve these issues by increasing how much you actively learn while reducing the amount of reading & re-reading you do



### What is SQ3R?

SQ3R, which stands for **S**urvey, **Q**uestion, **R**ead, **R**ecite, **R**evue, is a step-by-step reading strategy used at the college level to reduce reading time and increase learning outcomes

### Marking Texts

Marking texts is one of the most effective methods to stay engaged and active while reading. Here are some common marks:

- **Circle** = keywords
- **Underline** = topics sentences
- **Highlight** = main ideas
- **★** = important or answers a question
- **+** sign = supports the main idea
- **-** sign = refutes/critiques the main idea
- **!** = something surprising or to note later
- **?** = something confusing

**Notice that “Read” is only 1 out of 5 steps. Keep that in mind. It is about how much you should be reading versus processing what you read.**

The inventory on the back will help you identify your current reading strategies, the level of critical thought each requires, and what strategies you are missing.

	Description	Tips
<b>Survey</b>	Survey the whole of the text before you read each part. Knowing the broader structure gives you points of reference to anchor and incorporate new information that you read.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take 5 minutes to survey before you read</li> <li>• Note titles, headings, subheadings</li> <li>• Scan all visual media (charts, graphs, etc.)</li> <li>• Read intros, conclusion, &amp; summary paragraphs</li> </ul>
<b>Question</b>	As us you survey the material, <b>write down</b> question on a piece of paper. Questions are key to giving your reading purpose. Together, these first two steps give you a foundation (Survey) and a goal (Questions) when you are reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn headings and titles into questions</li> <li>• Read example questions throughout chapter</li> <li>• Ask “Do I know this already or is it skippable?”</li> <li>• Ask “Does the professor expect me know this?”</li> <li>• Ask “What is the main point of this section?”</li> </ul>
<b>Read</b>	Begin reading. Keep your questions in mind as you read and highlight only what is relevant to answering them. Just because you are reading does not mean you are learning. The more active you are in the process, the more you will retain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight anything that helps answer your questions</li> <li>• Skip material irrelevant to your questions</li> <li>• Take notes and mark the text as you read</li> <li>• Mark material that you don’t understand fully or that might be important and create questions for these</li> </ul>
<b>Recite</b>	After each section, stop and try to answer your questions out loud in your own words without looking at the text. If you can’t answer, re-read the that section of the text until you can.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop &amp; recall for 3-5 minutes every 2-4 pages</li> <li>• If you can’t speak out loud, write instead</li> <li>• Summarize the section in your own words</li> <li>• Rank &amp; mark how hard each question was to answer</li> </ul>
<b>Review</b>	24-48 hours after, review your questions, and see what you can still answer. Relate the section you are reviewing to other sections of the reading. Organize what you need to know from the text, incorporating it into your note taking, study, and test prep methods -- omit the rest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review your questions, not the text -- your difficulty rankings will guide what questions you focus on</li> <li>• Organize, evaluate, and remove irrelevant questions</li> <li>• Revise questions that you couldn’t answer and improve the answers you do have</li> <li>• Incorporate your questions into your study methods</li> </ul>

## Study Methods Inventory

*The list below contains reading strategies that range from high-effort, low-effect methods such as passive, rote reading to far more effective and time-saving methods that engage all of your critical faculties and prepare you to be tested over what you read.*

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rote</b>, passive reading or reading just to finish what was assigned</li> <li>• <b>Skimming</b> for content</li> <li>• Make <b>Vocabulary</b> list from the reading</li> <li>• <b>Re-reading</b> the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summarizing</b> what you have read</li> <li>• <b>Paraphrase</b> or put into own words</li> <li>• <b>Survey</b> the text to get the bigger picture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inferring</b> or using what you have read prior to fill in what you haven't read</li> <li>• <b>Retelling</b> what you have read from a different perspective or new situation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TPS</b> (Think, Pair, Share) or breaking a text up among a group and sharing what each learns</li> <li>• <b>Predicting</b> what you will read</li> <li>• <b>Visualize</b> what you are reading (charts, graphs, idea maps, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a <b>KWL Table</b> for text (<b>K</b>now, <b>W</b>ant to Know, <b>L</b>earned)</li> <li>• <b>Paragraph Shrinking</b> or taking turns summarizing paragraphs with a partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching</b> what you have read to others</li> <li>• <b>Prepare questions</b> and answer as you read</li> </ul>

*It is important for new students to examine their reading strategies, try new methods, and remove ineffective ones. Not all strategies are created equal, and some engage far more of your brain for far longer. Higher-order reading strategies reduce the time you take to study and increase its effectiveness. Answer the questions below to help find a new method and evaluate your current study habits.*

Look at the list of reading strategies above. How many of the listed methods have you used before? How many do you use regularly?

Do you do more of the study methods that require less critical thinking or more critical thinking? Fill in the number used in the box next to each level.

Memorize  Understand  Apply  Analyze  Evaluate  Create

Pick the highest order method you regularly use when reading and try a method one step higher the next time you study.  
What method did you pick and why might it be more effective?