

THE SQ3R SYSTEM FOR STUDYING TEXTBOOKS

Step 1:

SURVEY Get a quick overview of the organization of the chapter. Orient yourself to the chapter to enhance concentration, interpretation, and retention of material. Read and think about the title, introduction, and headings. Study any maps, charts, and graphs. Read the end-of-chapter questions. Think about what you already know of the subject, and try to predict some ideas the chapter might discuss.

Step 2:

QUESTION Turn each subtitle into a question to focus your reading of the subsection and keep you alert while reading. To take notes, write the questions in your notebook skipping a few lines between each question.

READ Read each subsection actively to find the answer to your question. Pull out main ideas, and read to discover connections to other information and understandings you had conceptualized previously.

RECITE Recite the answer to your question as you finish reading the subsection. Pretend you are explaining the ideas to a study partner. Now write the answers to your question on your notebook paper using only your own words, not those of the author. Reciting and writing are powerful tools that combat massive forgetting.

Step 3:

REVIEW After you have read the entire chapter, subsection by subsection, review it as a whole. Discover how each subsection fits into the ideas presented in the title of the chapter. Review your notes to clarify any weak spots.