

SQ3R Reading Strategy

SQ3R is primarily a method for reading, but it is adaptable to studying any material. Pre-reading your PPTs and/or book sections will help you build the mental book case so that you can more easily file the information that you learn; writing the questions helps you practice assessment and more actively engage with the materials.

Here are links to 2 videos that describe the method and talk about why it works.

[SQ3R: How It Works](#)

[SQ3R: Why It Works](#)

The **Survey** step helps to let you see the scope of the assignment and its important parts. Start with the conclusion, then go to the introduction, headings, vocabulary, diagrams/charts, and examples. The **Questioning** step engages your brain in actively approaching the material and thinking about assessment and significance; writing out a list of questions in an outline form as you go allows you to create a study guide for later. **Then go to class and take notes!** The **Reading** step can be very directed then, focusing on what is important and what is missing from your notes. The fourth step is **Recite**, which again engages your brain in two different ways; using your own words and speaking aloud, and also listening to yourself. You can do this step with a tutor, or with any study buddy, or by yourself. The last step, **Review**, encourages you to go back over your material in a focused way, thinking about the questions and which answers you know well and which you don't. Remember that because of the "question" stage, at any point after that, you can identify areas where you need help and ask directed questions to get specific support from a tutor or your professor on a topic or concept.

You can always add questions as you read if you find your first set weren't thorough enough. **Quizzing a friend or even talking out loud to yourself will really force you to elaborate, connect, distinguish, and explain what you know.** Same goes for "concept v" questions in the book or handout questions for each section. This is especially useful with **graphs, charts, and diagrams** -- cover up the text and labels with your hands or sticky notes and then explain what you see and why it's important and how it connects to other topics and how it is different from or similar to other examples... etc.