

## **SQ3R METHOD**

**(SURVEY, QUESTION, READ, RECITE, REVIEW)**

Grabbing the latest paperback by a favorite author, pulling up your easy chair, you turn to the first page and, chapter by chapter, are compelled to read as the plot thickens. Somehow the same magic is not at work when your attention needs to be focused on doing the latest class assignment. After reading the first few pages of the reading, you find yourself unfocused, not knowing what you have read. SQ3R is one plan devised to help you stay focused and read efficiently.

**SURVEY:** Quickly look over the chapter. What is the chapter title? the subheadings? These are the major points that will be developed. Note any words in boldface or italics. The author considers these words important, and most likely your professor does as well. Read the summary if there is one and look over any questions at the end? Now you should have an overall picture of the chapter.

**QUESTION:** Formulate questions from the headings, subheadings and boldface words into which later will give direction to your reading forcing you to become actively engaged.

**READ:** Now you are ready to read. Using the questions, read to find the answers. Your reading should be much more focused since you have a specific purpose in mind. If you cannot answer a question, make a note to show that you need more information. By jotting down notes on each part, you will end up with a brief outline of the chapter—an excellent synthesis for review.

**RECITE:** Close your book and attempt to recite (talk to yourself, the mirror, a study partner) the questions and answers in your own words. If you cannot do the whole chapter, work on it in segments or look at your questions, cover the answers and recall as much as you can. This recitation of your reading helps lock the material in your memory.

**REVIEW:** Once you have read the chapter, look over your reading notes and think about the whole chapter, especially the large overriding themes. Cover your notes, attempt to recall the main ideas, then proceed with the subtopics. Check to make sure you see the relationship(s) between the parts. If there are questions at the end of the chapter, see if you now can give a more complete answer.

## SQ3R WORKSHEET

**SURVEY:** Read the title of the chapter, the introduction, each boldface heading, the summary, and look at any illustrations or graphs included.

1. What is the chapter about? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What major topics are included? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 1:** Turn the first heading into a question. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ:** Read the material following the first heading, looking for the answer to your question.

**RECITE:** Reread the heading and recall the question you asked. Briefly answer this question in your own words without looking at the section. Check to see if you are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 2:** Turn the second heading into a question. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ:** Read the material following the second heading, looking for the answer to your question.

**RECITE:** Briefly answer the question. \_\_\_\_\_

*Continue using the question, read, and recite steps until you have finished each part of the chapter. Then complete the review step.*

**REVIEW:** Look over the total chapter by rereading the headings. Try to answer the question you made from each heading.

Answer to Question 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer to Question 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_