SQ3R: Effective Reading

Step 1: Survey
Why: Surveying helps you get a bird’s eye view of your reading, so you can see its basic structure and important concepts.
When: Before you start reading. Surveying helps you contextualize as you read.
How: Quickly check out the:
- Title, author, and any headings to subsections;
- Images, graphs, etc. and the captions accompanying them;
- Any review questions or practice quizzes;
- The introduction and conclusion (these may be more than one paragraph).

Step 2: Question
Why: Collecting questions you develop as you survey the reading will help you focus your reading on understanding the critical gaps in your knowledge.
When: As you survey, jot down any questions about the content that occur to you.
How:
- Look for things you don’t understand in the title and headings to any subsections;
- Make note of any provided questions within the reading that you don’t know the answer to;
- Ask yourself what you already know about the subject that the reading focuses on.

Step 3: Read
Why: To fill in the gaps between what you know and what you need to know.
When: After you have surveyed and questioned, but before lecture.
How:
- Try to answer the questions you came up with or were provided with;
- Pay attention to words or phrases that are underlined, italicized, or bolded;
- Slow down when you encounter difficult passages. Reread them if necessary.

**Step 4: Recite**
Why: To crystalize and solidify what you have learned.
When: After you’ve completed the reading.
How:
- Ask yourself out loud the questions you developed;
- Summarize the reading in a few sentences;
- Underline or highlight key points.

**Step 5: Review**
Why: To make sure your understanding of the material sticks.
When: Daily or as frequently as possible.
How:
**Day One**
- Take a sheet of paper and draw a line down the middle. Put the questions on one side of the page, write the answers on the other.
**Day Two**
- Do another survey of the reading to remind yourself of the key points.
- Go back to your sheet from day one. Cover your answers and ask yourself the questions again.
- Make note of material you are having trouble remembering. Create flash cards or mnemonic devices to help you recall them.
Days Three, Four and Five
  ● Switch between using your flash cards and your sheet from day one to review the material.
Weekend
  ● Using the reading and your notes about it, make a Table of Contents, or a list all the topics and sub-topics you need to know.
  ● From that Table of Contents, make a study sheet or concept map.
  ● Try to say the main ideas and concepts out loud and in your own words as you create the study sheet or map.
  ● Keep reviewing your study sheet or map until you are assessed on the material.


Additional information can be accessed on: http://studygs.net/texred2.htm