SQ3R Reading Method

Use this method to increase your comprehension of textbooks, articles, research studies, and manuals. The acronym SQ3R reminds you of the elements of this reading method – Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review – that will help you become a more effective reader.

**Survey (also called skimming and scanning)**
Survey the title: Think about what you may already know about that topic.
Survey the introduction: It gives you an idea about how the chapter is organized, and what you will be learning.
Survey anything in bold: Subtitles are labels. Other bolded items may be definitions that you will need to know.
Survey the pictures, charts and graphs: Glance at these to pick out things that seem interesting or informative.
Survey the summary at the end: This will review and give you the key points in the chapter.
Survey the questions at the end of the chapter: These will help focus your attention on the main points.
Survey your course syllabus/course presentation and see what topics the Instructor is focusing on.

**Question**
Write "Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How" questions for each subtitle or definition (you can do this as you progress through the reading).

**Read**
Read to answer the first question (this answer will become your notes). Look for keywords.

**Recite**
Recite the answer to your question out loud. Do this as if you are explaining to a study partner.
Write this down in your own words – these are your notes.
Repeat for each question that you created.

**Review**
Stand back and look at the chapter as a whole.
How do the ideas and facts you learned from each subsection fit together?
Review your notes to be sure they make sense to you.

**Practise!**
Open your textbook to the chapter you are reading and complete the steps below.
**SURVEY:** After surveying the chapter, what do you think it will be about?
**QUESTION:** Turn the 1st subtitle into a question.
**READ:** The section to answer the question.
**RECITE:** Answer the question in your words. (Repeat for the rest of the chapter)
**REVIEW:** After reading the chapter, what new things did you learn?