



UCR Learning Center

AT209 - A free service for all UCR students

SQ3R Method for Thorough Study

Step 1: SURVEY - Look over material critically. Skim through the book and read topical and sub-topical headings and sentences. Determine how long the chapter is; How can you split it up into smaller readings? Read the summary at the end of the chapter. Notice the reading aids (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) and the bold or italicized words.

Step 2: QUESTION - Change paragraph and section headings such as "Basic Concepts of Reading," to questions such as, "What are the Basic Concepts of Reading?" These questions will become "hooks" on which to hang the reading material.

Write these questions out; look over the questions to see the emphasis and direction.

Step 3: READ - Now you're ready to start reading. Read the chapter paragraph by paragraph. Read and re-read until you can answer the question: "What did the author say in this paragraph?"
Read with smoothness and alertness to answer the questions you created with each heading.

Once you are able to describe what is in the paragraph, you will want to retain that learning by underlining or highlighting, and making notes in the margin or making notes in your notebook. Also, write notes, in your own words, under each question.

Step 4: RECITE - Without looking at your book or notes, mentally visualize and sketch, in your own words, the high points of the material immediately upon completing the reading. Cover up your notes or printed page and recite aloud. Remember! If you can't say it now, you won't be able to say it tomorrow in class, nor write it in a week on an exam; so while you still have a chance, try and try again, until you can say it.

- a. This forces you to check understanding.
- b. This channels the material into a natural and usable form.
- c. This makes you aware of what you do not understand.
- d. This forces you to think.

Step 5: REVIEW - Look at your questions, answers, notes and book to see how well you did when reciting. Observe carefully the points stated incorrectly or omitted. Fix carefully in your mind the logical sequence of the entire idea, concepts, or problem. Finish up with a mental picture of the whole chapter.