



## SQ3R:

Survey • Question • Read • Recite • Review

### Survey

- **Scan the text** to identify the structure of the text and important elements. Look for titles, subheadings, images, charts, highlighted words, and other visual indicators.

### Question

- **Ask yourself**, “What do I already know about the topics in this text?”
- Ask “What do I think I will learn about this topic by reading this text?”
- **Tip:** Turn the headings and subheadings of the text into questions; keep these questions in your notes so you can answer them later. These questions can generally be reframed as Who/What/When/Where/Why/How questions. Here’s an example: if you are reading a text about desert wildlife and find a subheading titled “Omnivores,” you might ask “What are omnivores?” The answer you come up with later will be a definition based on what you read under that subheading.

### Read

- **Now you actively read** the text.
- **Write** down additional questions you have and unfamiliar words/concepts.
- **Try answering the questions** you have written down. If you turned headings/subheadings into questions, try answering the question version of them.

### Recite

- **Summarize** what you have read (Try doing this aloud by yourself or with a friend).
- Try to **recall** your heading/subheading questions by memory and answer them. If you get stuck, make a note of what you will want to focus on more in the next step.

### Review

- Review is an ongoing process. Budget time to **take a break and return** to the text.
- **Try to answer your questions** without looking at your notes.
- **Skim the text again**, carefully reviewing any areas you found more difficult to recall in the “Recite” stage. **Re-read** difficult portions and look back at any relevant visual aids.

Adapted from: Inez, Susan. “What Is the SQ3R Method, and How Can It Help You Write Better Essays?” *Kibin*, 12 March, 2018.  
<https://www.kibin.com/essay-writing-blog/sq3r-method-write-better-essays/> Accessed 22 July 2020.