

27. SQ3R (Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review)

What is it?

SQ3R (Robinson, 1961) is a versatile study strategy because it engages students during each phase of the reading process.

Students preview the text material to develop predictions and to set a purpose for reading by generating questions about the topic; they read actively, searching for answers to those questions; they monitor their comprehension as they summarize; and they evaluate their comprehension through review activities.

How to use it:

Provide students with a copy of the following instructions. Model how you would respond to each set of questions or tasks. Assign a text passage to be read and have students practice the strategy in pairs or small groups. When it's clear that they understand each phase of the strategy, assign additional passages to be read, but have students work individually on the strategy.

1. Survey what you are about to read.
 - Think about the title: What do I know about this subject? What do I want to know?
 - Glance over headings and/or skim the first sentences of paragraphs.
 - Look at illustrations and graphic aids.
 - Read the first paragraph.
 - Read the last paragraph or summary.
2. Question.
 - Turn the title into a question. This becomes the major purpose for your reading.
 - Write down any questions that come to mind during the survey.