

The WRITING CENTER

Elftmann Student
Success Center

A Guide On How To:

SQ3R

- What is SQ3R?
- Steps to SQ3R
- Effectiveness of SQ3R

Question

Survey



Read

Review

SQ3R

What is SQ3R?

SQ3R stands for **Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review**. SQ3R was designed by the Department of Defense for World War II draftees who needed to know a lot of detailed, technical information in a short amount of time. It continues to give students an excellent routine to use for studying the same detailed material found in technical textbooks.

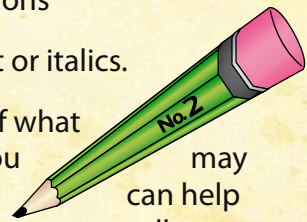
What are the steps to SQ3R?

1. **Survey** – Page through your textbook chapter, and take note of anything visual that **stands out**:

Title headings and sub-headings

- Pictures or graphics and read the captions
- Vocabulary words written in bold print or italics.

Your purpose is to get a **mental outline** of what the reading is about and consider what you **already know** about the topic. This step “warm-up” to a long reading, and is also to prepare for a class.



may
can help
an excellent way

2. **Question** – Create a question from each chapter title, headings, and sub-headings using who, what, when, where, why, or how.

Chapter Title: <i>SQ3R</i>	Question: “What is SQ3R?”
Section Title: <i>Surveying the Chapter</i>	Question: “How should I survey a chapter?”
Bolded Vocabulary Term: <i>Hybrid</i>	Question: “What is a hybrid?”
Caption from a Graph:	Question: “What percentage of cars on the road today are hybrids?”

Questions can be written as part of your **notes**, and give you a **purpose for reading** since you now have answers to find. Additionally, these questions will probably look similar to the ones you'll face on the **test** later on.

3. **Read** – Read the first bold print section of the chapter.

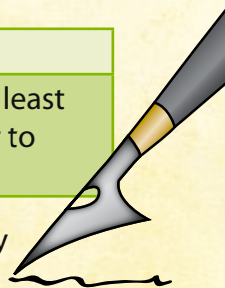
- Read until you **find the answer** the question you recreated from the heading. Write it down as part of your notes and/or highlight it in the textbook.

Question	Answer
What is a hybrid?	A vehicle that uses at least two sources of power to move.

- If you cannot find the answer to your question, try **rephrasing** your question with a different “W”.
- For more complicated readings, stop after each paragraph and ask yourself **“What do I need to remember?”**

4. **Recite** – Before you begin reading the next section, put the key ideas in **your own words**. If you can't, re-read the section until you can.

- Ask yourself your question and see if you can answer it - **out loud** - without looking.
- Select **1-3 key words** that will help you remember the main ideas of the reading.
- Rework the key ideas into a **different format**, such as a diagram, table, or flash cards.
- **Reflect** on what you've read. Think about any reaction you had to the reading, what it made you think of or visualize, or if you agreed or disagreed with the ideas.



5. **Review** – After you're done reading the chapter, review your questions and your answers every two to three days.
- Over time you will develop **mastery** of the key concepts presented without trying to memorize them.
 - Research has proven that **several shorter rounds** of studying are much more effective in both the short- and long-term for students.
 - Continue to review your questions and answers until the test.

Does SQ3R really work?

This particular strategy is commonly used by high school and college students, but it is one that needs to become a **habit** to be truly effective. Technical students need a **thorough understanding** of the complex material offered by their textbooks; investing in the routine of SQ3R will allow you to gain that understanding.

References

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