

SQ4R is an effective reading strategy that promotes thorough comprehension of a written text. It is meant to help identify, understand, and remember a text's main points. With practice, this method will help improve reading fluency and efficiency.

The method consists of six steps:

- 1. Survey.** Before reading, preview the text. This helps you get an overview of a reading and develop an idea of how its parts fit together.
 - Read the preface and table of contents.
 - Scan the title, headings, and subheadings.
 - Look at the pictures and graphs.
 - Read the introductory and concluding paragraphs and chapter summary.
 - 2. Question.** As you are surveying, develop questions. This helps you become a more active reader by maintaining your interest and giving you answers to look for.
 - Develop questions from the title, heading, or subheadings.
 - Read the questions at the start and/or end of a chapter.
 - 3. Read.** Read the text **without** taking notes! Examine tables, charts, or other graphics; sometimes they give more information than the text.
 - Look for the answers to your questions.
 - Answer the questions at the start/end of a chapter.
 - Understand all of the italicized sentences and bolded key terms.
- ***TIP:** Take notes **after** the end of each section. Then, think about the main ideas and highlight key phrases. This helps strengthen your ability to understand and remember the important points rather than simply marking them.
- 4. Respond.** Engage with the reading.
 - Give examples.
 - Describe how you do or do not relate.
 - Agree/disagree with the author's points.
 - Note any insights, confusing points, or clarifying questions for class discussion.
 - 5. Recite.** After reading, repeat what you just learned to yourself (or a friend), **without** using the text. This process helps you determine what you remember. This is also good test practice because it involves recalling the main ideas, its details, and how they connect to each other.
 - 6. Review.** Survey the text like you did before and recite the main ideas of each section. The more you review, the better you will remember the text's important points. The best times to review are right after studying and just before an exam.

Adapted from Your Memory by Higbee (1977) and The SQ3R Reading Method by Study Guides and Strategies