

Effective Reading: SQ3R

SQ3R is a five step process for reading books, articles, or chapters.

Source: Robinson (1978); as cited by University of Notre Dame (2017)

Survey → Question → Read → Recall → Review

Survey

Survey the article to get an overview of what it is about. Scan the headings, intro, summary points, pictures and diagrams.

Question

Based on your Survey, and on your knowledge already on this topic, generate a list of 3-5 questions you want to answer by reading this piece article/book/chapter.

- **Read actively** – underline, highlight, make comments or notes in the margin, try reading aloud, or making bullet point notes or a mind map as you go
- Think about the connections between this article and others that you have read, or between this and your lecture notes
- Evaluate what you read – is it accurate, is there any evidence of bias, is it logical?

Read

- **actively, carefully, critically**

Recall

Turn over the article. Write on a blank page, or audio record into your phone, **recall** the key points you learned and how they relate to what you know about this area already.

Review

Review your work to see if you remembered the most important points in your recall, and see if you have answered the questions you developed at the start.

References:

Robinson, Francis Pleasant (1978). *Effective Study* (6th ed.). New York: Harper & Row.

University of Notre Dame (2017). *SQ3R reading technique*. Available at: <http://library.nd.edu.au/studyskills/reading> (Accessed 12 October 2017).