



Reading Study Center
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N/E 201

SQ4R – What is it?

SQ4R is a systematic approach for reading college textbooks.

- SURVEY** Surveying gets you started, warms you up, and gives you some background. When you survey a textbook, you read the title, introduction, main headings and chapter summaries. This step should only take you a few minutes.
- QUESTION** Writing questions before you read sets the purpose and gives you motivation. To write questions, look at headings and subheadings. Turn those into questions, and read to answer them.
- READ** Focus, read to answer the questions you wrote, move quickly, and sort out ideas. Read from one MAIN heading to the next.
- RECORD** Write down brief notes, ideas, keywords, or underline. Marginal annotation works very well here and serves as a form of recitation, which helps transfer information into your long term memory.
- RECITE** Explain the passage out loud, rephrasing it in your own words. Recite essentially means to say out loud – that is the key!! Be selective – use the marginal notes as cues to recite main ideas.

REFLECT
see

thinking, connecting, and reviewing old and new material to
associations. This is the “think” step, a step that works best
if you do it
over short periods of time rather than all at once.