

SQ3R: Textbook Study Program

Adapted from: Congos, Dennis H. (2011) Starting Out in Community College. Chicago, IL: McGraw-Hill

SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review.

Step 1: Survey

Gain a quick overview of a chapter as a whole. **Spend 1 to 2 minutes surveying** in the following manner:

- A. **Fix the name of the chapter in your mind.** It is the main idea from the chapter.
- B. **Quickly read the introduction, outline, and objectives of a chapter.** They supply background information needed for & development of the chapter.
- C. **Pay attention to headings and sub-headings.** Headings indicate the *author thinks this idea is very important*.
- D. **Look at other clues to important ideas.** Authors indicate which points are important for you! **Bold print**, *italics*, numbered items, color-coded passages, marginal notes, glossaries, outlines, questions, lists, charts, etc.
- E. Read the summary to see which ideas are important or what conclusions are drawn.
- F. Look over words in the list of important terms at the beginning or end of chapters.

Step 2: Question

Make questions out of headings and subheadings. If the first heading in a chapter is “**The Judiciary and the Constitutional Courts**,” skim the details so you can make questions.

If the details provide definitions, “*What is the Judiciary*” and “*What are the Constitutional Courts?*”

If the details explain characteristics of the relationship, “*What are # (a number) characteristics of the relationship between the Judicial and the Constitutional Courts?*”

Using abbreviations, the question may be condensed to:

“What are # chars. of rela. betw. the Jud. & Const. Courts?”

If there is a marginal note, “**The Need for Constitutional Courts**,” your question could be “**What is the need for Constitutional Courts?**”

Details always dictate the format of a question.

Step 3: Read

Read the details to answer your question. Reading with questions focuses your mind when recalling details. Recognize important details and supporting arguments as you read! Making questions and answers increases memory at test time.

Step 4: Recite

Reciting properly is the most important step to prevent forgetting.

A. **Look at a question**

B. **Without looking, recite the answer aloud** The key to success lies in reciting the answer aloud or writing it out. "Teach the empty classroom" or write down (outline, short answers, chart, diagram, etc.).

C. **Check your answer** Make sure to test your understanding of the materials. You should feel certain about how you feel about the material before testing.

D. **Actively recite** It promotes and speeds learning. Re-reading slows & prevents actual learning.

E. **Repeat** the Question-Read-Recite process for the successive headings in the chapter.

Step 5: Review

Question-Read-Recite divides a chapter into sections, allowing best pace for student learning.

Review puts a chapter back together again. Answer the question made from the chapter title.

Review means regular and frequent! Reviews check that you know the material before entering an exam.