



Remembering What You Read

Student Success Workshop
Sauk Valley Community College





Issues with Reading Comprehension

- o Take a moment to reflect on your experience with reading and your college coursework.
- o What do you struggle with when it comes to reading?



Become an “Active” Reader

- o The main goal of your reading assignments is to connect ideas on the page to what you already know. Once you have formed a connection to the information, you will remember the information.

So how can you become an active reader?



Reading Techniques

SQ3R –

Survey, Question,

Read, Recite,

Review

Reading Techniques

Survey the chapter

Before reading the chapter:

- o Read the title, introduction and/or summary to help you focus on the main points of the chapter
- o Look over the chapter to notice major section headings and details that will reveal the author's method of organization
- o Note key words, questions, or statements which are in bold or italic
- o Look for any problems or questions for discussion at the end of the chapter. This will help you to determine the important concepts that you should learn from the reading

Reading Techniques

Question

Questioning helps your mind engage and concentrate on what you are reading.

- o For each section in a chapter, ask 4 basic questions:
 - o What is the main point?
 - o What evidence supports the main idea?
 - o What are the examples?
 - o How is this related to the rest of the chapter, the book, or to me?

Reading Techniques

Read the section

- o Read the section slowly and actively. Search for the answers to your 4 basic questions
- o Take notes - Summarize each paragraph in a word or phrase and write it in the margin or in your notebook.
- o Do not skip unfamiliar words, look up their meanings
- o If the subject was particularly complex, read through the section again.

Reading Techniques

Recite the Main Points

- o At the end of each section that you read, try to state, aloud or silently, the important points covered
- o Recite to remember – if you have trouble reciting what you have read you may need to reread the information
- o If a key idea comes to mind, then you can be confident that you understand what you have read.

Reading Techniques

Review

- o Immediately after you finish reading, go back over your information
- o Skim back over the chapter as well as any notes you have taken
- o Reread any highlighted or underlined sections
- o Go back over any questions from all the sections and see if you can still answer them
- o When you are finished with the chapter, create a summary of the entire chapter



Read Efficiently

After you have finished your reading:

- o Write a short summary of what you have read in your own words.
- o If you are having trouble recalling the information, look back at the notes you took while you read.
- o If you are still having trouble, you may need to read the assignment again.



Tips on Underlining in a Textbook

To avoid highlight everything, read the entire section a first time. Watch for transitional words such as "First", "Next" and "Finally". These are signal words that the author is moving to another key point.

Then, read again and pay attention to the following:

- o Highlight major points
- o Highlight key terms and definitions

Final Tips

- Read during a time of day when you have optimal concentration.
- Try to read for 35 to 40 minutes at a time and then take a short break.
- Create motivation and interest by discussing the reading with others and ask questions.
- Pay attention to pictures or graphs.
- Build a good vocabulary by using a dictionary to look up words you do not know.

Resources

- o <http://educatoral.com/SQR3.html>
- o <http://www.providence.edu/OAS/Shop/Reading.htm>
- o http://www.ulc.psu.edu/studyskills/reading_comprehension.html#sq3r
- o <http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/aSGuest1527-97501-question-notes-study-skills-notetaking-web-based-strategy-education-ppt-powerpoint/>
- o College Reading Success **Dr. Pamela Petty**
Associate Professor of Literacy, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Special Instructional Programs
- o <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/reading.html>