

Study Skills Strategies

SQ3R Structure

SQ3R (Robinson, 1961) is a five-step strategy that can be used with expository text (reading to inform or persuade) to help learners clarify, understand, and recall what they read. You can help your learners and yourself by following the steps below. Discuss the steps with your learners each time you use this strategy. This strategy needs to be used more than one time and with a variety of reading materials (textbook chapters, newspaper articles, etc.) to be successful. A typical pattern of expository reading is introduction, body, and conclusion.

SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review

Step 1 – Survey Learner previews material first to gain overall aspects of text. Learner describes to tutor what he/she has done to get ready to read. (See Preview Check List on the next page.)

Step 2 –Question Learner devises questions with the expectation of finding answers in text to be studied. (Rephrase headings and subheadings as questions. Use who, what, when, where, why, and how words for questions.)

Step 3 –Read Learner read to find answers to questions formulated in previous step. (Active involvement for learner. After reading, learner may want to underline the main points with a ball point pen or use a highlighter.)

Step 4 –Recite Learner checks comprehension by reciting answers to formulated questions orally (or to him/herself) and by writing brief study notes. (Learner rereads segments if unable to answer questions.)

Step 5 – Review Learner review what he/she has been reading by talking through main points of the entire selection, reviewing notes, and reviewing underlined/highlighted material. Review often takes more than one time. (Learner may also expand strategy by adding a written review.)

The SQ3R Strategy just described involves a preview survey of material which learners may use to guide their study survey. As your learners become more independent readers, they will be able to do this strategy on their own.