

\* keep this!



# ACTIVE READING

## The SQ3R Reading System

### S = survey

Look over the contents of the text. Note chapter titles, which describe the information being covered. Look at the chapter subheadings, pictures, captions, graphs and diagrams. With advance knowledge of what information the book contains, students will be better focused when reading. Comprehension and retention will therefore be increased.

### Q = question

When you read each chapter heading, turn that statement into a question. Turning a statement into a question gives focus to your reading and serves as a guide. When formulating your question use terms such as who, what, where, when, why, how, compare, contrast, describe, explain, list and trace. Write the question in the margin of your textbook. Example:

Heading: The End of the First Party System

Question: *Describe the circumstances surrounding the collapse of the First Party System.*

### R = read

Read the section with the intent of finding the answer to your question. Highlight the answers to these questions, along with any key points, examples and definitions.

### R = recite

After reading and highlighting a section of the text, recite the answers to your questions out loud. Are you able to answer in your own words? If not, re-read the section again and formulate another response to the question. You may want to revise your question, now that you are more familiar with the topic.

### R = review

After reading the whole assignment, review the chapter review questions as well as your SQ3R questions and answers. Re-read highlighted textbook material.

Columbia College. (n.d.). The SQ3R Reading System. Retrieved from <http://www.ccis.edu/offices/academicresources/writingcenter/studyskills/textbookreadingstrategies/thesq3rreadingsystem.aspx>

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