



SQ3R Reading strategy



At university, you are expected to read academic sources to widen your knowledge and develop your understanding. You will read books, reports, academic journal articles and so on.

Reading such sources can be challenging, so you should try to develop strategies that will enable you to locate and focus on key information relevant to your assignment question, and not waste time and effort.

One example of such a reading strategy is **SQ3R**.



Survey the text (S)

- Look over the text in order to get an impression of the structure.
- Check the headings and subheadings, and look at the diagrams, tables and graphs.
- This will provide you with a framework, which you can build upon when reading in more depth later on.



Away from the text, ask questions (Q), such as:

- What is the main purpose of this text?
- How does it relate to my assignment question?
- What are the main findings?
- What are the conclusions?



Quickly read (R1) the text

- As you do so, try to find answers to the questions generated in the previous stage.
- Locate the sections of the text which are likely to be most useful for answering your assignment question.

Read (R2) the text more closely:

- With the knowledge you have built up about the text so far, you can now, with your assignment question in mind, read the text for more detail.
- As you read, underline and annotate the text, and/or take notes.



Review (R3)

- Take a step back; look over your annotations and notes. Are there things you don't understand? Or questions unanswered? *If so, go back to the text.*
- Cover the text and your notes, and repeat to yourself the main ideas of the text. This will enable you to express the key ideas in your assignment in your own words.