Reading in College

Keep up with course and research material!
SQ3R

- **S**urvey the chapter
- **Q**uestion what you are reading
- **R**ead
- **R**ecite after you read a section
- **R**eview to make sure you understand the information
  - Review your questions and see if you can answer them within 24 and again within a week
  - Review is an ongoing process; do it often
Scan – scanning gives you a quick overview of the material.

- Do not skip the first page of your module or chapter.
- Read Rationale, Outcome, Objectives and Introduction.
- Read other headings, diagrams, bolded text
- Identify any other resources which might be useful
Question – Ask yourself questions before you read

- What are you expecting to learn?
- Turn headings and titles into questions
Read – Give your reading a purpose.

- At the end of each section, see if you can answer your question(s)
- Look for words, names, places or events in bold or italic print and ask yourself why it is important
- Try to relate it to information you already know or to your future career
Reflect – When you’re done reading, reflect and recite what you have just read

- Summarize the reading your own words
- Think about why the information is important for your course
- **Review** - helps you “lock” the information in your brain.

  - Think about what content is important and why
  - Review your notes a day or two later.
  - Teach something to someone.
Take a break between each paragraph or section to treat yourself and reflect on what you’ve just read.

If you’re re-reading the same thing, time to take a 5 minute break!
Reading research articles

- Mistake #1 – read it like a book, front to back.
- Mistake #2 – read it like an editor and notice all the grammar mistakes.

- **DO** read the abstract, introduction and the conclusion *first*. What point is the author trying to make?
- **DO** find evidence the author uses to prove their point
- **DO** evaluate such evidence. Does it actually support their claim?
- **DO** synthesize. How does it fit in to what you already know and have read? Don’t know? Find and read other articles and sources.

And don’t forget
- **Cite your sources!**

One last reading tip...

- Read material in small blocks
  - (e.g. 25 minutes reading, 5 minute break)

  - Productivity apps:
    - Clear Focus (Android)
    - Pomodoro Timer (Apple)

- If you’re on a roll, keep going!
Read Actively

- Think about it
  - Does the author have a point? Or are they biased and missing something?
- Question it
  - How does it compare with what you are studying and learning about?
- Talk about it
  - Create a discussion with your family or classmates. Do they know anything about the subject? What can you teach them?
- Learn about it
  - Is your topic talked about in the media? What does the world think about your subject?