

ACTIVE READING

What is active reading?

Active reading is a technique that is used to assist readers in achieving better material recall and comprehension. One of the most common active reading techniques is commonly referred to as SQ3R: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review.

Survey.

This step is done BEFORE you actually read the chapter. It helps by giving you an overview of what you will be reading about. Look at titles, headings, the introduction, pictures, summary, end of chapter questions, etc. Keep these themes in mind as you read.

Question.

Perform this step while you are surveying. Ask yourself questions while you are reading. This keeps your mind active. Ask yourself, what is this chapter about? Turn the headings into questions themselves and then look for the answers in the text as you read.

Read.

While you are reading be sure to look for main ideas, italicized words, bold words, etc. Read everything! Be sure to look at and review any pictures, graphs or charts. Try to answer some of the questions you came up with in the previous step. Re-read if necessary to clarify.

Recite.

Throughout your reading stop and summarize what you just read out loud to yourself. Use underlining or highlighting techniques for your text. Write important notes, theories, or vocabulary. The more senses you involve (seeing, hearing, saying, writing) the more you will recall.

Review.

Look back at what you've read and learned. Are there any areas you need to review again? Go over any study guides or review questions. Notice your strengths and weaknesses. Review any notes from class or that you have taken during the reading process. Review is an on-going process. This keeps information fresh in your mind.

