

# SPQR<sup>3</sup> READING METHOD



SPQR<sup>3</sup> stands for **S**urvey, **Q**uestion, **R**ead, **R**ecite, and **R**eview. It is simply a series of steps to help you get the most out of your readings by increasing your levels of understanding and retention.

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## 1. Survey

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- Look at chapter titles so you know what kind of information you're learning
- Look at the introduction to gain a sense of the text's objective
- Look at the summary to gain a sense of the text's main and important points
- How is the text organized?
- Is it broken into chunks with **HEADINGS**? This tells you the main points of the chapter can be broken into subtopics
- Are there pictures, graphs, charts, etc.?
- These may help you to understand a difficult concept or theory
- Are there **bolded** or *italicized* words?
- Be prepared to learn some key terms and definitions, and get an idea of how they fit into the bigger picture of all the information in the chapter
- Ex: How does the keyword **mnemonic device** (a quick method for remembering information) fit into the overall topic of studying?

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## 2. Question

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- Often what we need to read in university lacks structure or guidance
- So... try turning those chapter headings into questions
- This provides a goal and motivation as to what information you want to take away from your reading

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### 3. Read

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- Alright, now that we have questions that need answering, we READ
- And we want to do this actively ... looking for the specific information that will answer your questions and then taking notes so we better learn the material
- And put those notes into your own words. You will remember them better

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### 4. Recite

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- This is important when it comes to learning the material well
- As you complete each section, take some time and go over the questions to see if you can recall their answers from memory
- Don't move on to the next session until you're able to get all the answers right

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### 5. Review

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- You've finished the chapter. Or the article. Or the book. Yay!!
- Okay. Because you've taken the time to come up with questions and then find answers to them... we now have this wonderful study guide!
- Go over the whole thing
- Again, and again, and again