

Reading Strategies

SQ4R Reading System (for traditional textbooks)

Survey – Overview of chapter

- Read learning objectives.
- Read introductory paragraph.
- Read chapter title, headings, and subheadings.
- Look at charts, pictures, and graphs.
- Read summary, “words to remember,” other help at end of chapter.
- Read chapter questions.

Question – Purpose for reading

- Turn a heading or a subheading into a question by asking “who, what, when, where, why, or how.”
- If no headings, turn a topic sentence into a question

Read – For comprehension

- Read one section actively to answer the questions asked.
- Compare or contrast with earlier materials studied.
- Answer to the question should be the main idea of paragraph or section—highlight it.
- Locate details and underline in pencil.
- Study tables, graphs, and charts for that section, relating them to the text reading.

Record – Brief notes of chapter

- Write a brief chapter outline, summary, or bullet points of the information in your own words.
- Make 3x5 note cards for vocabulary.

Recite – For understanding

- Read aloud highlighted answer to question asked or summary/points from record step.
- State answer aloud from memory.
- To understand—talk aloud to yourself about what is highlighted/underlined or written down.

Review – For retention

- Answer text questions.
- Study highlighted and annotated information from text.
- Use helpful memory cues.
- Review vocabulary note cards.
- Compare text notes to lecture notes.
- Repeat this review weekly.

P2R Reading System (non-traditional textbooks)

Preview - Begin by reading the introduction or, if there is none, the first couple of paragraphs. Next, page through the book and read the headings. Glance at any charts, graphs, diagrams, or pictures. Finally, read the last paragraph or two. The goal of this step is to get an overview of the material and develop a sense of progression of ideas.

Read - Now mark ten pages of reading and read the material, taking notes or highlighting important information. The number of pages you read can be adapted to the particular book you are reading.

Review - After reading ten pages, review the information. You can do this in a number of ways:

1. summarize, in your own words, the author's main points.
2. write down three or four sentences summarizing what you've read.
3. close the book and recite the key information under each heading.
4. quiz yourself on questions or problems at the end of the chapter.
5. create questions you may see on the exam about this material and answer them.

S-RUN-R Reading System (problems-based classes)

Survey - First, survey the chapter. Read the title and the introduction, as well as all headings, charts, diagrams, and graphs.

Read - Now read the section.

Underline - Underline the material that explains the section's heading.

Notetaking - After completing the previous steps, take notes on the material. Summarize the main points of the section.

Review - Review the material to reinforce your learning.

KWL Method

KWL, an acronym for Know, Want-to-know, and Learned, is an effective way to read with purpose. KWL is easy to apply and can lead to significant improvement in your ability to learn efficiently and to retain what you have learned.

The active steps follow the acronym KWL and are generally organized in the form of a three-column chart:

Know	Want-to-know	Learned
Before reading, assess and record what you know.	Set a purpose for your reading. What do you want to learn from the text? As you read, maintain focus on your purpose.	After reading, reflect, note and review what you learned from your reading.

Though it was introduced as a strategy for reading comprehension, the KWL method can be applied to any learning situation, such as taking a class, listening to a lecture, watching a documentary, participating in a classroom activity, attending a workshop and so on.