

## GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR READINGS! Use the PQ3R Reading Strategy



### PQ3R – A Reading/Study System

- **PREVIEW** – the chapter/section to create a “meaning framework” and get an overview before you read. How much can you learn about the contents and subject area, without reading the chapter/section yet?
  - **Look at the title, introduction, table of contents**
  - **Skip to the end and read the summary first**
  - **Scan through chapter headings and subheadings**
  - **Notice boldface and italic print**
  - **Notice graphics, diagrams, charts, tables, formulae, boxed inserts – decide when/ if you’ll focus on them**
  - **Read list of key terms at end of chapter; look at questions and examples**
  - **General preview time guideline: about 10 minutes per 30 page chapter**
  
- **QUESTION** – to help you concentrate and focus on what’s important, as you read
  - **Before reading, create questions based on Preview information; questions included at end of book or chapter; boldface headings**
  - **Do one section at a time**
  - **Go beyond just “fact” questions to deeper levels of critical thinking**
  
- **READ – ACTIVELY** to fill in the information around the questions and meaning framework you’ve created. Retrain your mind to concentrate and stay engaged as you read
  - **Read one section at a time with questions in mind**
  - **Look for the answers; organize your notes around questions and answers**
  - **Notice if you need to make up new questions**
  
- **RECITE** – rephrase the information out loud; write in your own words
  - **After each section, stop and recall your questions**
  - **See if you can answer the questions from memory**
  - **Do not go on to the next section until you can rephrase information in your own words**
  - **Take very brief notes after you read each section (not at the same time as you’re reading) – e.g., summarize answers to questions**
  
- **REVIEW** – refine your mental organization and begin building memory
  - **Once you’ve finished entire chapter (using these steps)**
    - **Go back over all questions from all headings**
    - **See if you can still answer them**
    - **If not, look back and refresh your memory**