The University of Nottingham

Academic Support, Student Services

SQ3R: survey, question, read, recall, review

Keep bibliographic records: author, title, date of publication, place of publication, publisher, page numbers

Survey: What is your text?

Title, front and back cover information, contents, and index – or abstract

Introduction or preface – what is this text about? Check 'topic sentences' – the first line of each paragraph Headings, diagrams, graphs and conclusions

Question:

Is it relevant?

What exactly do I want to learn / what level of detail do I need?

Am I ready for this text – or would reading a more basic overview first help me understand the topic more?

Read:

Active reading
Break material into small chunks

Recall:

Close the text and try and note down what the key points were Think about the questions you had in mind for reading the text

Re-read
Identify key phrases
Use colour-coding
Apply critical thinking skills

Review:

Did you answer your question?
What are the key points?
Are your notes clear?
Can you summarise this text without looking back at it?
Discuss it with others