

READING COURSE TEXTBOOKS

USE YOUR READING TIME MORE EFFICIENTLY!

APPLY AN *ACTIVE READING* APPROACH: **THE PQSRT METHOD**

Designed to help you read faster and retain more!

In this method you follow five steps, **Preview, Question, Read, State, Test**. The middle three steps apply to every section within a chapter whilst the first and last steps apply to the chapter itself.

Preview

First of all, preview the entire chapter - skim through it all so you know what you're going to be covering. One way to do this is read the chapter introduction, look at the headings, read the section introductions and check out the figures. Then read the summary at the end of the chapter. The summary usually tells you what you have learned in that chapter). Look at the topic you have to learn by glancing over the major headings or the points in the syllabus.

Question

As you read through each section, start by asking yourself "What am I supposed to learn in this section?" This helps to get your brain in to sync with the topic being discussed. Formulate questions to answer once the topic has been thoroughly studied.

Read

At last, you can actually read the section. Do it carefully, think about the meaning and relate this to other things you know about this and similar topics. Do some underlining or highlighting of key words. Don't overdo it! If you want to take notes, read the whole section first, and then summarize it later. Read through reference material related to the topic, and choose which information best relates to the questions.

State (also called "Summary")

Once you have finished reading, think back about what were the main ideas you learnt. Try and recite some of this information aloud (unless you are in the library). This is a flexible step that allows you to bring other ways they use to summarize information into the process. Check back against the text, and note the things you missed out. Ensure that you didn't miss them out because you haven't learnt them. Only then go on to the next section and Question again.

Test

Now you have finished the chapter (or a major section if the chapter contains large dissimilar sections). Test yourself and review all the material. If you made notes, read through these. Think about the relevance of what you learned and how it all fits together. Reread any chapter summaries. Even though you have only just read the chapter, now is the best time to test yourself. Answer questions created in the Question section as fully as possible. Keep in mind that it is easy to lose sight of the point of learning. Avoid adding questions that you didn't formulate in the Question step. You may find that many textbooks are compiled in a way, which makes this method easy to apply, using an introductory passage, and questions at the end. The method can also be modified to suit any particular form of learning in most subjects. This method allows more accurate timing of work rather than you having to decide how much time to attribute to a topic.

You are welcome to visit our webpage at www.einstein.yu.edu/OASC for more information regarding STUDY METHODS. Please contact the Office of Academic Support and Counseling at 718-430-3154; oasc@einstein.yu.edu for additional questions. The office is located in the Mazer Building, room 432.