Reading Strategy: SQ4R

SURVEY: Prior to reading anything, figure out how long your reading section is. Flip through the section and scan all the title(s) and subheadings. Take a brief look at pictures, charts, and/or graphs provided. Then, if an abstract is provided read it over and figure out what the major take-away(s) are: the purpose, major theme(s), or concept(s) you should focus on.

QUESTION: From your initial observations or deductions, develop questions you would like answered through this reading section. Sometimes your professor will provide questions to be answered, but if not, when you create your own questions you are actively reading and learning. If you read the required section and your questions are not answered then you have identified great questions to ask your professor or present for class discussion.

READ: Start reading. Slowly. Re-read. Pause. Consider what you just read and if it answers your questions. Does it pose another question? Continue reading. Annotate in the margins. Highlight.

RECITE: Look over your notes, highlights, and annotations. Recite and note key points or words either out loud or to yourself.

RELATE: Connect take-away concepts by relating them to your experiences. By doing so, you are developing multiple pathways in your brain to arrive at the same answer which will assist you in recalling information.

REVIEW: Step away from the reading material for a period of time. Just make sure that prior to the next class period, you review your notes, highlights, annotations, and skim through the actual reading again. Gather the questions that were left unanswered and you will be ready for class discussions and future tests.

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