How to Read Textbooks More Effectively

Macon State College
Academic Resource Center
Academic Success Skills Workshop Series

Reading Textbooks

• What affects reading success?
• Reading more effectively
• Reading efficiency
• Vocabulary

Reading Success

• What affects your reading success?
  – vision
  – procrastination
  – time
  – amount
  – motivation
  – concentration
  – fatigue
About Vision

- Headaches?
- Blurry?

Reading Issues

- retention
- comprehension
- vocabulary
- recall
- synthesis
- analysis

Reading Effectively

- reading strategies
- reading efficiency
- vocabulary
Reading Strategies

- skimming
- reading difficult material
- remembering what you read
- SQ3R

Skimming

- introduction
- summary
- subheadings
- first paragraph
- last paragraph
- skim
- summary notes

Reading Difficult Material

- active approach
- title
- first paragraph
- main ideas
- look up words
- reread
- to the end
Remembering What You Read

• association
• visualization
• concentration
• repetition

SQ3R

• Survey 🐳
• Question 🤔
• Read 🎧
• Recite 📜
• Review 🤔

Survey

• title
• intro or summary
• headings and subheadings
• graphics
• reading aids
Question

- turn headings into questions
- important step!

Read

- read one section at a time
- add more questions, if necessary
- don’t get bogged down with details

Recite

- when do you recite?
- how do you recite?
- what if you can’t recall?
Review

• how do you review?
• what if you’ve forgotten some of the answers?

When to use SQ3R

• when can’t I use SQ3R?
• when should I use SQ3R?
• how does the professor use the textbook?

SQ3R Action Plan

• plan ahead
• read before class
• meet with your professor
Reading Speed

- background knowledge
- building speed

Building Vocabulary

- pay attention
- dictionary
- running lists
- technical terminology

Wise words . . .

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.
Dr. Seuss
Extra Assistance

• Academic Resource Center
• Macon State Library

Acknowledgements

• Special thanks to the Learning Commons at Conestoga College
• Reading Speed information adapted from:
  Toronto ON.