

The PQ4R Method for Reading

Preview

- Before reading a text:
 - Quickly skim the title, section headings, and topic sentences of paragraphs to gain a general idea of the text.
 - Look at the overall structure and appearance of the text - what is the genre of this text?
 - Look at graphic aids - pictures, charts, or graphs.
 - Read the first and last paragraphs to gain a general idea of the purpose and major concepts of the text.

Question

- Take time to create questions to revisit and reflect on as you read.
- What should you know when you have finished reading this material?
- What is the purpose of this text? Do you agree with the writer? Are there alternative points of view?
- Ask yourself questions for each section.
 - Who, what, when, where, why?

Read

- As you read, try to answer the questions you have developed.
- Read the text in shorts bits - take breaks!
- Work through each section of the text, making sure that you understand each one before moving onto the next section.
- Record notes in the margin, in a notebook, and/or underline important information that answers the questions.

Reflect

- Think about what you have just read and consider:
 - How does this text relate to things I already know?
 - How do the headings and subheadings connect to the overall purpose of the text?
 - How might this material be applied to a situation?

Recite

- Without looking at the text, recite in your own words the major ideas or concepts from the text.
- Work to answer the questions you developed for each section. If this is difficult, re-read the necessary sections of the text.
- Explain a concept to someone else. This is a good way of finding out if you fully understand the material.
- If you don't have someone to talk to, write down these points using a flowchart or an outline.
- Create visuals or posters of the major ideas or concepts.

Review

- Try to recall the material and test yourself.
- Create a quiz for yourself.
- Work with a partner or a group to review.

The information for this handout was compiled from the following source:

Thomas, E. L., & Robinson, H. A. (1972). *Improving reading in every class: A sourcebook for teachers*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Write your own future!