



# A Strategy for Reading Textbooks

## PQR3 Method

### **P = Preview what you are going to read**

- Form an impression about the subjects and concepts you'll be reading about.
- Look over carefully what you are going to read paying attention to main ideas, subjects and headings -- don't focus on the details.

### **Q = Question**

- Form a question in your mind about what you are about to read and learn.
- Practice on this page -- form a question like "What are the main reasons the Roman Empire fell?"

### **R = Read, Recite, and Review**

- Read - Read the assignment.
- Recite - Stop every so often, look up from the book, and put in your own words what you have just read.
  - Practice on this page - "R" stands for read, recite, and review.
- Review - After you have finished, review the main points.
  - Practice on this page - "I did learn a system to improve my reading comprehension. The main parts are ...."

## Additional Strategies

**Underline** from each section of the text several key words or phrases.

**Summarize** the concepts represented by the key words and list them in the book margins or at the bottoms of pages. (If the students are using borrowed or library books, then the key words must be written on note cards keyed to the appropriate page numbers). Avoid listing anything that might be an answer to a question.

**Association:** When you associate, you make the things you want to remember relate to each other in some way. Once you know what your purpose in reading--that is, once you know the information you are looking for--you can try to remember this information by fitting it into some general category.

**Visualization:** Visualization helps you to create a strong, vivid memory. Try to picture in your mind what you wish to remember. Try to remember a man's name for example, by seeing his face in your mind and associating his name with it. You can remember an important date in history (perhaps a battle or a peace meeting or an inaugurating) by picturing the scene in your mind with the date in big letters in front of this visualization.

**Repetition:** When you have difficulty remembering textbook information, you should repeat the procedures for associating, visualizing, and concentration. The first step in remembering a list, for example, is to categorize it (association) and visualize it (thus forcing concentration). Do this once and then repeat the same task frequently. The repetition will help burn the information into your memory.

**Relation:** Relate what you read to other things that you already know.