The SQ3R Method of Reading

Survey
● Read the introduction and the final paragraph of the chapter.
● Look over major section headings and subtitles.
● Look at any pictures, figures, maps, or charts.
● Skim questions, key words, and summaries at the end of the chapter.
● Create a context for remembering information and get a sense of what is important.

Question
● Look at any study questions presented at the end of the material because they will help you pick out important information as you read.
● Create your own questions by turning titles and headings into questions.
● For each section in the chapter, ask these 4 basic questions:
  ○ What is the main point?
  ○ What evidence supports the main point?
  ○ What are the applications or examples?
  ○ How is this related to the rest of the chapters, the book, and the subject matter?

Read
● Read the section actively and identify the main idea in each section.
● Search for the answers to the study questions and your generated questions.
● Make notes in the margins to create your own organization.

Recite
● After reading each section, recite in your own words the main points and your answers to the questions without looking at the textbook.
● Recite to remember.

Review
● Go back and highlight or underline the main points in the section.
● Add more notes in the text and margin.

Strategies to Modify the SQ3R Method of Textbook Reading
● You do not need to use this method for all reading assignments, but it is most helpful with difficult textbooks.
● Select steps you find helpful and omit others.
● Modify steps as needed to make the method an efficient study tool for your needs.
● Overall, the goal is to understand and remember the important points of the chapter so that you can answer questions and apply the information.