

## STUDY CHUNK READING

The following textbook reading technique will improve your understanding and memory for textbook material and also increase reading rate.

### **Survey.**

First, look at everything in the chapter except the text itself. Read the title, headings and subheadings, the outline and objectives, the summary, questions at the end, graphs and pictures, and key words. You want to get a sense of the topic to be covered in the chapter, of how the information is organized, and of what key points you'll be looking for.

*Then, for each section or division of the chapter ("study chunks"), you'll do the next three things. These steps will help you establish a purpose for reading and create an intent to remember. They'll also help you focus your attention on the most important material.*

### **Question.**

Before you read, **predict** questions you think the instructor might ask over the material. Refer to the other pages in this handout for an example of this process.

**Write down questions** based on information given in headings and subheadings. Formulate questions based on the six basic questions which might be asked on any test: what, why, how, who, when, where. The first three questions are called "open questions," and will usually be the most valuable study questions. Think about what the instructor emphasizes in class and what kinds of questions were asked on the first test. (See the separate handout on Bloom's Taxonomy for additional guidance about questioning.)

Survey each assigned section to get more information which can be the basis for further questions. Read the first sentence in each paragraph to ascertain the main point, and look for words in boldface print or italics. Study questions at the end of the chapter or contained in a study guide may also be helpful as guides to reading.

### **Read.**

Read rapidly to answer the question(s) you have written down. Be selective.

### **Recite.**

Repeat the answers to the questions out loud in your own words to make sure you understand what you have read. This will also help you remember the material. (Many readers find this step helpful; others don't like it. Try it and if it helps you, use it; if not, leave it out.)

### **Write.**

Jot down the answers to your questions using key words and phrases. You might consider underlining your text as an alternative to writing the answers down; however, if you do this be certain to RECITE before you underline.

*At the end of each study session and once a week, review all the reading you have done.*

### **Review.**

Answer your questions again without looking at your notes. This will help you remember the information and reinforce the overall picture of what you have been studying.