



Application Example: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review (SQ3R)

This document models how to apply the SQ3R reading strategy using an academic text. SQ3R improves comprehension and retention of course readings and assignments.

Survey

Surveying or skimming text helps to form the purpose and determine main ideas of the text

1. Take 10 to 15 minutes to skim the text for key items like titles, headers, bold or italicized print, pictures, charts, introductions, conclusion, first and last sentences, and footnotes.

1.1 What Is Sociology?

What Are Society and Culture?

Sociology is the study of groups and group interactions, societies and social interactions, from small and personal groups to very large groups. A group of people who live in a defined geographic area, who interact with one another, and who share a common culture is what sociologists call a **society**. Sociologists study all aspects and levels of society. Sociologists working from the **micro-level** study small groups and individual interactions, while those using **macro-level** analysis look at trends among and between large groups and societies. For example, a micro-level study might look at the accepted rules of conversation in various groups such as among teenagers or business professionals. In contrast, a macro-level analysis might research the ways that language use has changed over time or in social media outlets.

Question

Write questions that formed during the surveying step. Use questions from the author or the instructor noted for learning this material.

1. Take 5 to 10 minutes and turn the underlined headings, vocabulary terms, or graphs into questions. Use question starters: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

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The term culture refers to the group's shared practices, values, and beliefs. Culture encompasses a group's way of life, from routine, everyday interactions to the most important parts of group members' lives. It includes everything produced by a society, including all of the social rules. Sociologists often study culture using the **sociological imagination**, which pioneer sociologist C. Wright Mills described as an awareness of the relationship between a person's behavior and experience and the wider culture that shaped the person's choices and perceptions. It's a way of seeing our own and other people's behavior in relationship to history and social structure (1959).

What is culture?

Why is society and culture studied by Sociologists?

R1 = Read

Reading a paragraph or two at time will support in finding key information in the text.

1. After reading, write the answers of the questions in your own words.

Studying Patterns: How Sociologists View Society

All sociologists are interested in the experiences of individuals and how those experiences are shaped by interactions with social groups and society as a whole. To a sociologist, the personal decisions an individual makes do not exist in a vacuum. Cultural patterns and social forces put pressure on people to select one choice over another. Sociologists try to identify these general patterns by examining the behavior of large groups of people living in the same society and experiencing the same societal pressures.

Changes in the U.S. family structure offer an example of patterns that sociologists are interested in studying. A "typical" family now is vastly different than in past decades when most U.S. families consisted of married parents living in a home with their unmarried children. The percent of unmarried couples, same-sex couples, single-parent and single-adult households is increasing, as well as is the number of expanded households, in which extended family members such as grandparents, cousins, or adult children live together in the family home (U.S. Census Bureau 2013).

What is an example of cultural patterns?

- U.S. family structure



2. Find the main idea of each paragraph and highlight it.

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R2 = Recite

Say aloud or write your understanding of the material without looking back at the text.

1. Create a summary including connections to material, answers from your questions, and big ideas from the reading.

“This text is about how sociologists study patterns of group interactions through society and culture. A connection I had to the text...”

2. Lastly, highlight the most important idea.

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R3 = Review

Go over the material – your notes and original texts - within 24 hours of reading it.

To prepare for an exam:

1. Quiz your memory using the questions and answers from the text
2. Re-read the written summary and highlighted main idea