

The “PQRST” method is a step-by-step plan that has been proven to raise students’ test scores.

**“P”— PREVIEW to identify the main ideas**

**When you first get your book:**

Scan the **title page** and review the **table of contents**. How is the book organized?

Locate the **appendix**, **glossary** (a mini dictionary), **references** or **bibliography** and the **index**.

**When you start a new chapter** read the following:

- Chapter title and objectives
- Visual aids (graphs, images, text boxes)
- Headings and subheadings
- Chapter study questions and summary

**“Q”— QUESTION** Ask questions such as:

- *What do I need to know from this assignment?*
- *What’s the purpose of this reading?*
- *How will this information be used in my course?*
- Create questions for each chapter title, heading or subheading in the chapter.

**“R”— READ and REACT**

- Be an active reader—consider and question as you read.
- Mark in the book or on sticky notes to draw your attention to specific ideas. Highlight only main ideas or key words. Only about 10% of the text should be highlighted.

**“S”— STATE or SUMMARIZE to help information get into long-term memory**

- This is one of the most important and valuable steps.
- After each paragraph or section, look away, and say in your own words what you just read. If you cannot, read it again with more focus and concentration.
- Summarize aloud and write it down.
- If it is still unclear, seek help from a peer, teacher, tutor at the Success Center, or online.

**“T”— TEST**

- Answer the test questions you developed.
- Memory doesn’t happen by review only; retrieval of information requires practice.

<b>PQRST</b>
⇒ <b>PREVIEW</b> – HEADINGS
⇒ <b>QUESTION</b> – WHAT DO YOU NEED TO LEARN?
⇒ <b>READ AND REACT</b>
⇒ <b>STATE/SUMMARIZE</b> WHAT YOU READ
⇒ <b>TEST</b> – ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMORY

Source:

“How to Study a Reading Assignment: The PQRST Method.” State College of Florida.  
[scf.edu/content/PDF/ARC/How\\_to\\_study\\_a\\_reading\\_assignment.pdf](http://scf.edu/content/PDF/ARC/How_to_study_a_reading_assignment.pdf). Accessed 11 May, 2017.