SQ3R Study Technique:
Survey, Question, Read, Recite & Review

One of the best ways to learn new material is to follow the steps below for SQ3R:

Step 1: **Survey**: Survey the chapter to get an overview of what you are about to learn. Read the title, introduction, headings, and subheadings, and summary. Use your prior knowledge. Ask yourself, “What do I know about this topic?”

Step 2: **Question**: Turn each heading into a question. The heading “Elephants are prone to aggressive behavior” is transformed into the questions, “When are elephants likely to be aggressive?” and “Who or what provokes elephants to aggression?” If you are taking notes, write the questions down.

Step 3: **Read**: Read the section to answer the questions that you posed. Reading to answer questions keeps your reading more focused.

Step 4: **Recite**: When you come to the end of a section, recite. See if you can answer the questions that you posed. Example: “When are elephants likely to be aggressive?” This is where you check for comprehension. If you can’t answer your own questions, go back and reread. Use two-column notes, putting questions in the left and answers in the right after you have read the entire section.

Step 5: **Review**: After the entire assignment is complete, review what you have read and your notes. This will help you see what is most important in what you have read, organize the information, and integrate new information with prior knowledge. Reflect on the information to gain a deeper understanding of what you have read.