SURVEY: Gather the information necessary to focus and formulate goals.

1. **Read the title** – Help your mind prepare to receive the subject at hand.
2. **Read the introduction and/or summary** – Orient yourself to how the chapter fits the author’s purposes, and focus on the author’s statement of most important points.
3. **Notice each boldface heading and subheading** – Organize your mind before you read – build a structure for the thoughts and details to come.
4. **Notice any graphics** – Charts, maps, diagrams, etc. are there to make a point – don’t miss them.
5. **Notice reading aids** – Italics, bold face print, chapter objective, end-of-chapter questions are all included to help you sort, comprehend and remember.

QUESTION: Help your mind engage and concentrate.

One section at a time, turn the boldface headings into as many questions as you think will be answered in that section. The better the questions, the better your comprehension is likely to be. You may add further questions as you proceed. As your mind actively searches for answers to questions, it becomes engaged in learning.

READ: Fill in the information around the mental structures you’ve been building.

Read each section (one at a time) with your questions in mind. Look for the answers and notice if you need to make up some new questions.

RECITE: Train your mind to concentrate and learn as it reads.

After each section – stop, recall your questions, and see if you can answer them from memory. If not, look back again (as often as necessary) but don’t go on to the next section until you can recite.

REVIEW: Refine your mental organization and begin building memory.

Once you’ve finished the entire chapter using the preceding steps, go back over the questions from all the headings. See if you can still answer them. If not, look back and refresh your memory, then continue.

Adapted from University of South Carolina Student Success Center