

# Textbook Attack

## How To Mark Your Textbook

- Textbooks can be a wealth of information, if you know how to use them. Get to know your textbook. Preview your textbook for helpful materials. Many often outline the chapter at the beginning, use large headings, have important definitions and equations in boxes, contain chapter summaries, self tests, glossaries, appendices, etc. Check to see if an introduction tells you how these are intended to be used.
- Do not mark everything that seems interesting or important at the time. While this keeps you involved, it doesn't help when you go back and review.
- Wait to begin marking until you understand the main points of the chapter by skimming or reading an outline.
- Now, go back and mark the main points in any fashion you choose, so long as it is consistent.
- Make connections between main points with short notes in the margin, arrows, or numerals. Marking key transitional words like 'because,' 'although,' and 'despite' also helps.
- Use the inside covers to keep a running glossary of formulas, terminology, etc and the page numbers on which they are defined. This is also a great place to write down your system for marking.
- Don't overuse your system. Don't mark up the page just to convince yourself that you are studying. Make your marks simple and have a good reason for every mark you make.
- Review your marks immediately after you finish the assignment before you close your book.
- If you like separate chapter notes, it is now easy to make an outline.
- If you disagree with a statement, indicate that in the margin.
- On sheets of paper that are smaller than the pages of the book, write thoughts or summaries that you have while reading and insert them between the pages.

### Sample Markings:

- double underline = main idea
- underline = important facts
- circle vocabulary
- circled numbers = sequence of related things
- \* supporting passages
- (parentheses) = words of transition

## PSC, the shortened SQ3R

- Preview: Any good reader of non-fiction texts previews. Skim the chapter titles, look at the visuals, and read the questions at the end of the chapter. Estimate how long the assignment will take, and if it will require more than one sitting, find a good stopping place.
- Study: Fix a purpose for your reading. Don't say you're going to memorize every bit of information. Use simple marking techniques to pull out information. Stop at intervals and see if you are reaching your goals.
- Check: Skim the chapter again and look at your markings. See how much you can recall based on these clues.