The PQ4R Method for Reading

- **Preview**
  - Before reading a text:
    - Quickly skim the title, section headings, and topic sentences of paragraphs to gain a general idea of the text.
    - Look at the overall structure and appearance of the text - what is the genre of this text?
    - Look at graphic aids - pictures, charts, or graphs.
    - Read the first and last paragraphs to gain a general idea of the purpose and major concepts of the text.

- **Question**
  - Take time to create questions to revisit and reflect on as you read.
  - What should you know when you have finished reading this material?
  - What is the purpose of this text? Do you agree with the writer? Are there alternative points of view?
  - Ask yourself questions for each section.
  - Who, what, when, where, why?

- **Read**
  - As you read, try to answer the questions you have developed.
  - Read the text in shorts bits - take breaks!
  - Work through each section of the text, making sure that you understand each one before moving onto the next section.
  - Record notes in the margin, in a notebook, and/or underline important information that answers the questions.

- **Reflect**
  - Think about what you have just read and consider:
    - How does this text relate to things I already know?
    - How do the headings and subheadings connect to the overall purpose of the text?
    - How might this material be applied to a situation?

- **Recite**
  - Without looking at the text, recite in your own words the major ideas or concepts from the text.
  - Work to answer the questions you developed for each section. If this is difficult, re-read the necessary sections of the text.
  - Explain a concept to someone else. This is a good way of finding out if you fully understand the material.
  - If you don’t have someone to talk to, write down these points using a flowchart or an outline.
  - Create visuals or posters of the major ideas or concepts.

- **Review**
  - Try to recall the material and test yourself.
  - Create a quiz for yourself.
  - Work with a partner or a group to review.

The information for this handout was compiled from the following source:

*Write your own future!*