INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAM
 of Robert W. Sterling Sr. Memorial Library

 **Studying with Multiple Sources**

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**The ability to find and evaluate resources for learning is a necessary skill for lifelong learning and effective work in many fields. Helping students find answers to questions on their own is also an effective strategy for learning.**

**Course information can be delivered through a variety of formats:**

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| **Lectures ( In person or online)**by teacher or guests | **Textbooks** | **Fictional story/novels** |
| **Interviews and biographies**eyewitness accounts or commentaries | **Duplicates/hand-outs**of (text) chapters, magazine articles | **Original source material**as diaries, government documents,proceedings, minutes |
| **Electronic media**such as videos, radio programs | **Internet**web site pages, discussion groups |

**Using multiple sources allows you to understand a topic more deeply. It is important as the writer to synthesize through your sources. Synthesizing includes comparison and contrast, but also allows you to combine multiple perspectives on a topic to reach a deeper understanding**.

**Some Recommendations:**

* **Read your text**
to provide the factual framework from which to begin
(see also [Taking notes from a text book](http://www.studygs.net/booknote.htm) - <http://www.studygs.net/marking.htm>
* **Proceed to shorter, more focused sources**
of information especially if you are inexperienced in the subject
* **Practice with multiple texts** to improve your evaluative skills:
	+ compare and contrast your sources
	+ analyze them for bias or viewpoint
	+ note when and where they were written, and how that affects the viewpoint
* **Understand the connections**
between events, actors, and circumstances rather than learn a series of "facts" which can be easily be forgotten
* **Use in-class or on-line discussion time**
to test your understanding and ask questions!
* **Strategy:** SQ3R reading method

**SQ3R is a reading strategy formed from its letters:**

**Survey! Question! Read! Recite! Review!**