Questioning as You Read

Have you ever held a conversation with a small child? It often seems as though children won't stop asking for an explanation long enough for you to answer their questions. This insatiable quest for knowledge is what drives children to learn, and their method of questioning is also one of the most useful learning tools for students of all ages.

**Questioning as you read:**
- Improves your comprehension of the material
- Helps you to retain important information and details
- Will help to make you a better reader by getting you thinking about the contents of the passage and its importance

**QUESTIONING in 3 steps:**

1. **SURVEY** - Before reading your assignment, look it over and identify what is new to you and what you find familiar.
   - What do I already know about this topic from past course or life experience?
   - What do I expect to learn from this reading assignment?
   - How will this information relate to what I've learned in class?
   - How will this information help me on quizzes, exams, and in class discussions? What type of exam am I preparing for (essay, multiple choice, short answer...)?

2. **READ** - While reading the assignment, ask yourself questions which you will be able to answer by paraphrasing the text.
   - What is the main idea of the selection?
   - What facts or details support the main idea?
   - Do these details express a cause and effect, sequence of events, or compare and contrast relationship? Are they definitions or examples?
   - What questions can I formulate which might appear on future quizzes and exams? Can I answer those questions easily?

3. **SUMMARIZE** - Once you have finished the passage, go back and try to summarize, making sure that you are able to answer the questions you asked in section #2. Consider the new knowledge you have gained from this reading.
   - What conclusions can I make based on the facts and ideas in this selection?
   - How does this material expand on my past knowledge of the topic? Have I learned something new or changed my opinions?
   - Do I accept any judgments that the author has made, and does the information seem valid? Why or why not?
   - Is this information worth knowing? How will I use this information in my own life experiences?
   - How will I be able to use this information in class, on exams, and in papers?