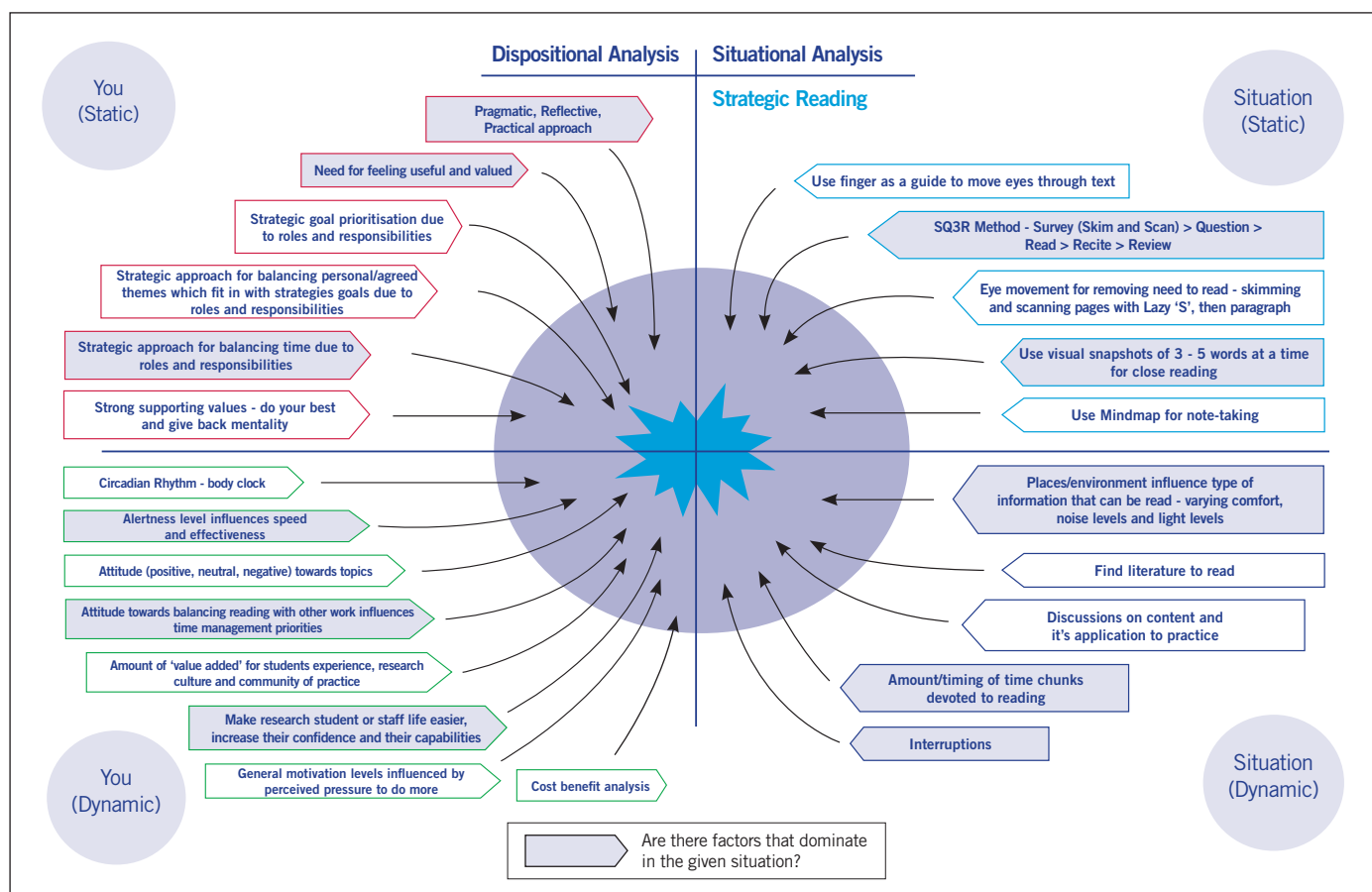


# Strategic reading



## Explanation (Mark Proctor perspective)

### What influences my strategic reading practice and how can I do better?

In this example, I used the SDD model to analyse the complex relationship I have with strategic reading.

### Why focus on strategic reading?

I have been using strategic reading approaches for 10 years since I attended a reading workshop. However, I think that my effectiveness in doing this varies because I do my reading in bursts - sometimes I'm happy with my approach and other times I'm not so happy with it – which makes me question the way I priorities my time and manage it. So, I wished to identify rapid reading processes to consider how I use them. I wished to identify why I approach reading in the ways I do. I also wished to uncover related strategies that I have adopted and embedded in my decision-making processes as tacit knowledge. By doing this, I wanted to decide if I was happy with my approaches or evaluate new ways of working.

### My approach for the 'Situational Analysis' side of SDD model.

By reflecting on what I learnt in a strategic reading workshop 10 years ago using the STARL-P framework, I was able to identify strategic reading processes to include in the model.

Almost all of these were placed on the 'Situational Analysis' side of SDD model. The exception was the statement 'Alertness level influences speed and effectiveness' which was dispositional, so this was placed on the 'Person profiling' side of the model in the 'You (Dynamic)' section.

### My approach for the 'Person Profiling' side of the SDD model.

I believed that I needed to use a 'deeper' reflexive approach to understanding why I do things. To be able to uncover this type of information fully, I needed to draw on knowledge that I had gained by completing several styles questionnaires: for learning styles; for personality styles; for leadership styles; and for management styles. I also needed to draw on my personal and professional life-stories to uncover my values, my beliefs and my life-positions; all in a focused and useful way. Some information I wanted would be about 'You (Static)', which included: core values; beliefs; life-positions; and dominant personality traits. Other information I wanted would be about 'You (Dynamic)', because they were affected by the environment, such as: my feelings, my attitudes, and my motivation levels.

So I interviewed myself using a number of critical questions. I created the questions to help me reveal this type of information in relation to prioritising my time, managing my time, and reading in the way I do.

I tailored these questions to be in the context of work. Questions included: Consider times when you have, as well as have not, used strategic reading at work. Answer the following questions, then consider their impact on your strategic reading using the SDD model:

In one sentence, as a mission statement, describe a personal reason for doing your job? What is it that makes reading so important? What are your core beliefs which you use to prioritise reading the way you do? What are your core beliefs which you use to balance time? What are your dominant approaches to reading? How would you describe your dominant strategic reading style? What needs to happen for you to be able to do your job and use reading in an effective useful way? What other needs do you have generally?

Make a list of things which interrupt you whilst reading. Make a list of reasons why you value reading. What distracts you from your plan? What is it about you which drives you to succeed at work? What demotivates you? What motivates you? How do these affect your feelings towards reading at work? What do you do to decide whether or not to read strategically? What else affects reading? How do they affect reading?

N.B. In the model, I recorded detailed strategic statements and actions to enabling me to make sense of what I had learnt here - without needing to apply the full evaluation again, and in a way which could inform my practices.

### Was this useful for me?

I wished to identify strategic reading processes to consider how I use them. I use strategic reading to gather useful information quickly so I can spend more time making use of the information as I tailor it to developing workshops, etc. This has remained constant.

I wished to identify why I approach reading in the ways I do. I recognise that I am motivated by my core beliefs and values (from the 'you static' area). The perceived level of benefit to others truly drives me, but I need to divert my attentions at times when other activities become of greater benefit or more of a priority (from the 'you dynamic' area) - which is why my reading time occurs in bursts of time.

I also wished to uncover related strategies that I have adopted and embedded in my decision-making processes as tacit knowledge: I use a pragmatic approach (from the 'you static' area) so I just try something and evaluate it for the next time, and the reading in bursts seems to work relatively well for me and my job. So, I have continued to work in this way for a long time without thinking about it very much. Also, the dominant cost-benefit analysis to me and others also seems to be a generally useful strategy.

By doing this, I wanted to decide if I was happy with my approaches or evaluate new ways of working: I generally do the best I can with the time I have and I'm relatively happy with the way I appear to be working from the SDD model as well as what I finish up with. Ok, so dynamic factors influence this, but the approach seems to be working in the long term. So, yes I am generally happy for now. For that reason, I will probably not change my long term strategies.

