

# 7 Steps to Poker Book Learning

We read poker strategy books to gain knowledge, to work on our leaks, build our skills and to be better than we were before we picked it up. Here's the **7 Step Process** I've developed from my own research to get absolutely the best value possible out of the books I read.

**1. Skim** Skimming means you're only looking for the main ideas of a text; for key words and important details that stick out to you. The goal isn't to read everything, but to internalize the major concepts we are about to apply to our game.

**2. Set a Goal** Now that you have a basic understanding of the chapter, the most productive and effective way to read is to know the questions you want answered beforehand. Learning more about the answers to the following 3 questions is your goal:

- What skills can I learn from this chapter?
- Why are they important or relevant to my game?
- How can I implement them in my game?

**3. Read** Now that you know your goal (what you want to gain from the chapter) it's time to read. Read with a pen and take notes in the margins of the book as necessary. If something is important, mark it so you can find it easier in the future. Quiz yourself on any chapter summaries present.

**4. Summarize & Analyze** After reading, it's time to summarize as necessary all of the important points that you want to take with you. You can do this in a notebook, a Word document, a mind map or Evernote as well.

Next analyze the info learned. Use your poker tracking software, Flopzilla, Equilab or any other software necessary to test the effectiveness of the strategies presented.

**5. Take Action** Now for the most important part – taking action on what you've learned. Use **FOCUS Sessions** where you play only 1-2 tables and work on adding one skill to your arsenal.

**6. Assessment** This is a hand history review of the entire Focus Session played the night before, with particular emphasis on the hands that you marked. Use the proper tools (tracking software, analysis software, calculator, pencil/paper) to determine if you made good plays and killer decisions.

**7. Rinse, Repeat, Review** Now that you've made an initial assessment, it's time to take action again in a focus session with your new findings, and then assess again afterwards. Do this as many times as necessary until you feel you've got a great grasp on the skill, then move on to the next chapter in the book.