

Annotating a Text

1. **Pick up** a pencil, a pen, a highlighter, or a post-it.

2. **Read everything at least twice.**

The first time, read quickly to get a sense of what the text is about.

The second and subsequent times, read carefully. Mark anything that you think is:

- A. confusing,
- B. interesting,
- C. surprising, or
- D. important.

Mark anything that is unfamiliar and keep going.

3. **Begin to annotate.**

- A. Circle, underline, or stick on a post-it for important ideas and explain their significance.
- B. Mark repetitions or rhetorical signals.
- C. Circle confusing words or phrases. Define from context or dictionary if possible.
- D. Note passages that seem inconsistent.
- E. Note passages that generate a strong positive or negative response.

4. **Write questions where you made annotations.** These questions can be for the instructor to answer, for the class to discuss, for you to use in future writing assignments, or for you to keep as a reminder of what you were thinking.

5. **Think about the connections** between this text and other texts you have read, information from other classes, and personal experiences.

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