

Annotating: The Art of Making Your Thinking Visible

WHAT

- Marking up important sections of the text (underlines and marginal notes that record YOUR thinking *in your own words*, symbols, or even doodles) to increase understanding
- Engaging with the text—a conversation with the text, recording only your side of the conversation
- Stop, think, and react—capture your responses while reading
- “Annotating text is one of the most common comprehension-enhancing strategies used by proficient readers,” (*Texts and Lessons*).

WHY

- Focused and engaged while reading
- Intentional comprehension
- Heightened awareness when reading difficult text
- Notes for future dialogue on the text

HOW

- Read once for general understanding
- Read again using a pencil or pen to write notes. (Highlighters distract from the learning and dilute comprehension according to Harvard Library.)
- Underline information that is important, surprising, interesting, confusing, or thought-provoking.
- Jot down a sentence or two that explains why you chose that bit to underline. (Explain thoughts, opinions, or questions.)

WAYS

1. **VISUALIZE**- make mental pictures or sensory images
2. **CONNECT** - connect to own experience, to events in the world, to other readings
3. **QUESTION**- to actively wonder, to surface uncertainties, to interrogate the text
4. **INFER** - to predict, hypothesize, interpret, draw conclusions
5. **EVALUATE** - to determine importance, make judgments
6. **ANALYZE** - to notice text structures, author's craft, vocabulary, purpose, theme, point of view
7. **RECALL** - to retell, summarize, remember information
8. **SELF-MONITOR** - to recognize and act on confusion, uncertainty, attention problems
9. **DEFINE** - an unknown word or phrase

EXAMPLE

