

Nonfiction Annotation Guide

DIRECTIONS: Marking and highlighting a text is like having a conversation with a book - it allows you to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages you wanted to revisit. Annotating is a permanent record of your intellectual conversations with the text.

As you work with your text, think about all the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. What follows are some suggestions that will help with annotating.

1. Answer the following big questions.
 - What surprised me?
 - What did the author think I already knew?
 - What challenged, changed or confirmed what I knew?
2. Highlight the main idea. This may be directly stated or implied.
3. Ask questions that you had while reading the text.
4. Define words that are new to you.
5. Look for the following:

Numbers/Statistics

What is the author's purpose in using these numbers/statistics?

Quoted Text by a Worthy Speaker

What is the author's purpose in using these facts?

Emotionally Evocative Text

What feeling or idea does this quote support?

Why did the author include this quote?

Loaded language, extreme language, absolute language, comparisons, or true personal stories

What is the author's purpose in including these emotional appeals?

6. At the end of the document, discuss the author's **purpose** in writing this text. What effect do they hope to have on the reader? Why does it matter? (Inform/Persuade/Entertain)