


Critical (Close) Reading

Annotation Markers

Annotations are visual cues which will make review/rereading of the text quicker and easier.

*The first five markers are essential when marking a text during the rereading of the text.

Marking Symbol	Use this symbol to mark.....
#	Before you read, number the paragraphs of the text. A paragraph, for our purposes, will be indicated by an indentation or space break.
[Paragraph fits in these markers]	Chunk the text, either into manageable sections or according to the similarity of ideas or claims expressed in the paragraphs.
	Circle key terms : concept or topic based according to the lesson...relevant
<u>Main Claim</u>	Underline the author's claims and main idea : Claims are the opinions of the author or points the author wishes to prove or emphasize. Main ideas are relevant to the reading task.
[Evidence]	Bracket the Evidence : Evidence is the supporting information that helps prove the author's claims.
?	Use the question mark, for unfamiliar/unknown words.

Write in the Margins

Writing in the margins provides reader's notes, which provide clarification of the annotations or additional thoughts from the reader.

Writing in the Margins	To: clarify, connect, respond, question, predict, summarize, visualize
Clarify	Define key terms, reread sections of the text, analyze or connect ideas in the text, paraphrase or summarize ideas.
Connect	Make connections to your own life and to the world. Ask: How does this relate to me? How does this idea relate to other ideas in the text? How does this relate to the world?
Respond	Your responses can be personal or analytical. Readers will often respond to: interesting ideas; emotional arguments; provocative statements; author's claims; facts, data, and other support
Question	While reading you might ask: What is the author saying here? What is the author doing? What do I understand so far? What is the purpose of the section? What do I agree/disagree with?
Predict	Note what you think will be the result of what the author is saying or what you think will happen next.
Summarize	Note in your own words the general ideas or essential information being discussed in the chunk or paragraph.
Visualize	Visualize what the author is saying and draw an illustration in the margin. When visualizing, ask: What does this look like? How can I draw this concept/idea? What visual and/or symbol best represents this idea?