

Marking the Text

A “Reading for Understanding” Tool

Marking the text is a research based strategy to help students dissect and understand complex text. It is a strategy used across all of our classrooms and is a tool that students can use as they continue to learn their entire lives.

How do I use it?

You will annotate to identify information as you read to build understanding of the author’s purpose as well as the strategies and evidence he/she uses to develop their purpose.



When do I use it?

A fundamental strategy, marking the text should be used whenever you are asked to read academic texts and articles.



Why should I use it?

When you mark texts purposefully, you are actively engaged. Once the text is marked, you will be able to quickly reference important information. Marking might also help in summary writing, connecting ideas presented within the text, or investigating claims and evidence.



How to Annotate/Mark the Text:

Step 1: Number the Paragraphs and Box the Title Author and Date

Number the paragraphs for easy reference in discussion.

Step 2: Read the Entire Text and Highlight Unfamiliar Terms

Step 3: Circle Key Terms, Names of People, Names of Places, and Dates.

A Key Term may be;

- Repeated
- Used to explain or represent an idea
- A central concept or idea
- Relevant to one’s reading purpose

Step 4: Bracket the Author’s Claim/ Main Idea

- It may appear anywhere in the text
- It may not appear explicitly, so the reader must infer it from the evidence
- There may be more than one throughout the entire text

Step 5: Underline Supporting Evidence or Relevant Information

- A process
- Data/statistics
- Definitions
- Descriptions
- Explanations

Step 6: Symbolizing in the Margins

- **?** = needs clarification
- **C** = made a connection
- **★** = interesting or important

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