

Smart Student's Guide to Reading and Annotating



Preview the text

- Read the title. Make predictions about what the content and tone will be.
- Investigate the author. This helps you understand bias and anticipate argument.
- Investigate the original publication and any subsequent publications to determine audience.
- Number the paragraphs for easy referencing.
- Read the first and last lines/paragraphs to get a sense of where you are starting and ending.

Do a cold read

- Go through it once, no pens, just soaking up the text.

Read #1 (and maybe 1.2, 1.3...as many as it takes)

- Grab pens/markers/highlighters and QUACC.

● Q:

● U:

● A:

● C:

● C:

Discuss with peers

- Address your questions; share what you underlined and annotated; compare your chunking; discuss your connections.

Read #2: Chart the text (saying and doing)

- For each chunk, create a statement in margins that follows this pattern:

[R.A.V.] [doing] by [saying]

- R.A.V. = Rhetorically Accurate Verb See your reference cards
- Doing =
- Saying =

Address the 8 questions (located on reference cards)

- This may require several more readings and discussions of the text.

Start writing the précis...and beyond!

- Use your Smart Student's Guide to Writing a Précis cards to guide and support you.