






Overview of Nonfiction Signposts

Objective: Increase our understanding of nonfiction writing through meaningful, interpretive, and evaluative analysis, discussion, and presentation.

Signpost	Task (a brief overview of each signpost)	Annotation symbol
	<p>When you are reading and the author shows you a difference between what you know and what is happening in the text or a difference in the text, you should stop and ask yourself: What is the difference and why does it matter? Answering the question will help you see details that show you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Main Ideas ✓ Compare and contrast ✓ Author's Purpose ✓ Inference and Generalizations ✓ Cause and effect 	CC
	<p>When you are reading and you notice that the author uses a word or phrase you don't know, you should stop and ask yourself: Do you know this word from someplace else? Does this seem like technical talk for experts about this topic? Can I find clues in the sentence to help me understand the word? Answering the question(s) will help you decide if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ You need to look up the word ✓ You need to keep reading for more information (look for context clues) 	W
	<p>When you are reading and you notice specific numbers, number words, or amounts, you should stop and ask yourself: Why did the author use those numbers or amounts? Answering this question will help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Come to a conclusion ✓ Make a comparison ✓ See details ✓ Make inferences ✓ Find facts or recognize evidence 	S/N
	<p>When you are reading and you notice the author quoted a <i>voice of authority, a personal perspective, or cited other words</i>, you should stop and ask yourself: Why did the author quote or cite this person? Answering the question will help you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Think about the author's point-of-view and purpose ✓ Think about the author's bias or conclusion ✓ Gain a perspective ✓ Decipher between facts and opinions ✓ Make a generalization 	" "
	<p>When you are reading and you notice the author uses language that leaves no doubt, exaggerates, or pushes the limit, you should stop and ask yourself: Why did the author say it like that? Answering the question will tell you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Author's point-of-view ✓ Author's purpose ✓ The difference between facts and opinions ✓ How to make a generalization 	E

