

## HOW TO ANNOTATE NONFICTION




### **BEFORE READING**

- Set a purpose for reading. CIRCLE title. Consider what it means by asking a question about the title.
- Identify information about the author, source, and publication date.
- Skim through the piece TURNING all subheadings into questions, CIRCLING all text features, and READING any after reading questions.
- Identify the topic/subject and WRITE anything you already know about the topic and anything you want to know about the topic.

### **DURING READING**

- Read EVERYTHING without marking the text.
- Read AGAIN.

#### Mark in the text:

- Wavy Line underneath author's key claim 
- **Highlight** any repetition, parallel structure, restatement and rhetorical questions (Consider how rhetorical devices express the author's point of view)
- Underline author's support for claims
- Use a  next to the spots that confirm refute initial predictions spots that help you answer your title question.
- Use a  around vocab we have studied or don't know
- Use a "?" for the author or confusing spots
- Use a "!" for "Wow" reactions or extreme claims

#### Write in the margin:

- Right Margin: Write your reactions to what the author is saying
- Left Margin: Write main ideas. Make connections across articles and between other texts.

### **AFTER READING**

- Complete this statement, "The author's purpose for writing this is..."
- If you can't answer the author's purpose questions, go back and reread the introduction and conclusion.
- Go back to the title and ANSWER your question and write a reflection on the significance of the title.

## HOW TO ANNOTATE FICTION


### **BEFORE READING**

- Examine the front and back covers (books)
- Read the title and any subtitles
- Examine the illustrations
- Examine the way the text is set up (book, short story, diary, dialogue, article)

As you examine and read these, write questions and make predictions and/or connections in the margins near these parts of the text.

### **DURING READING**

#### Mark in the text:

- **Highlight** characters and characterization at the beginning, middle, and end (Notice how the main character(s) change through the story)
- NUMBER (1,2,3) plot or the main events
- Use  a around the setting (when and where; atmosphere and mood)
- Put (PARENTHESES) around vocabulary
- STAR (\*) belief/value statements
- UNDERLINE moment or most emotional intensity (climax)

#### Write in the margins:

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions
- Make connections
- Ask questions (Clarify/Connect/Conclude)
- Analyze author's style (tone/language/style)
- Write reflections/reactions/comments
- Look for patterns and repetitions

### **AFTER READING**

Use these strategies to write a notebook entry:

- Reread your annotations - draw conclusions
- Reread introduction and conclusion - try to figure out something new
- Examine patterns and repetitions - determine possible meanings
- Determine significance of the title