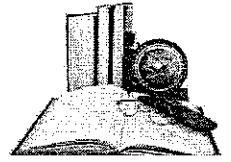


How to Annotate Science Text in YOUR OWN WORDS

One strategy for reading articles or textbooks is to **ANNOTATE**. Think for a moment about what that word means. It means to add notes (an-**NOTE**-tate) to text that you are reading, **to offer explanation, comments or opinions** to the author's words. Annotating is all about YOUR words, and how you personally interact with the text. Do you get it? It takes practice.



Here are some things to remember:

1. Scan the document you are annotating first and notice some obvious clues, like titles or headers for sections pictures and captions. Read the first paragraph and maybe even the 2nd paragraph) to see a BIG IDEA about what the article is going to be about. In the margins, near the top, write down the **big idea** of the article in your **own words**. **IMPORTANT**, this shouldn't be more than a phrase or a sentence.
2. **Underline topic sentences or phrases** that express the main idea for that paragraph or section. You should **never underline more than 5 words**, though for large paragraphs or blocks of text, you can use brackets. **Write in the margin** next to these underlines a summary of the paragraph or the idea being expressed in YOUR OWN WORDS.
3. Connect related ideas by **drawing arrows** from one idea to another; annotate those arrows with a phrase about how they are connected.
4. If you encounter an idea, word, or phrase you don't understand, circle it and put a question mark in the margin that indicates an area of confusion, write the question in the margin. But remember to ask it in class or post it on the question box. (Only counts as 1 annotation)
5. Anytime the author makes a statement that you can connect with on a PERSONAL level, annotate in the margins a summary of how this connects to you. Write any comments or observations you feel appropriate to the text, you can also add your personal opinion. (Only counts as 1 annotation)
6. Place a box around any term or phrase that emphasizes **scientific** language. These could be words you are not familiar with, **define those words in the margins**. That means you may have to look up a word, or try to figure it out from the context. Remember to write it down.

To summarize how you will annotate text:

1. Identify the BIG IDEA and put it in **YOUR OWN WORDS**.
2. Underline topic sentences or main ideas and put them in **YOUR OWN WORDS**.
3. Connect ideas with arrows
4. Ask questions
5. Add personal notes
6. Define "unknown" science terms.

Things to remember about highlighting:

1. Read first, highlight second. Read a paragraph or a chunk at a time. Then go back to highlight and or underline.
2. Highlight or underline words and phrases only.
3. Remember you should **try to limit** highlighting to no more than 5 words at a time.
4. Avoid "coloring" your paper with your highlighter.
5. Highlight text, when there's other non-important stuff in between, so that it can be read as a sentence, skipping the details.
6. It's more important to add to your paper **YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Highlighting and Underlining is NOT annotating.