

HOW TO ANNOTATE NONFICTION

BEFORE READING

- Set 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:

- STAR (*) the thesis
- HIGHLIGHT any repetition, parallel structure, restatement, and rhetorical questions (Consider how rhetorical devices express author's point of view.)
- UNDERLINE signal/cue words (words that help you identify the text structure—cause and effect, compare-contrast, chronological, etc.)
- ANSWER questions you created from subheadings
- Put (PARENTHESESE) around vocabulary

Write in the margins:

- Summarize
- Make predictions
- Formulate opinions (agree or disagree with the author)
- Make connections
- Ask questions (Clarify/Connect/Conclude)
- Analyze author's point of view (tone, diction, syntax)
- Write reflections/reactions/comments

AFTER READING

- Complete this statement, "The author's purpose for writing this is..."
- If you can't answer 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
- BOX setting (when and where; atmosphere and mood)
- Put (PARENTHESESE) around vocabulary
- STAR (*) belief/value statements
- UNDERLINE moment of 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 title