

Annotating a Text

- 1. Pick up** a pencil, a pen, or a post-it.
- 2. Read everything at least twice.**

The first time, read quickly to get a sense of what the text is about.

The second and subsequent times read carefully.

Mark anything that you think is:

- A. confusing,
- B. interesting
- C. surprising, or
- D. important.

Mark anything that is unfamiliar and keep going.

- 3. Begin to annotate.**
 - A. Circle, underline, or stick on a post-it for important ideas and explain their significance.
 - B. Mark repetitions or rhetorical signals.
 - C. Circle confusing words or phrases. Define from context or dictionary if possible.
 - D. Note passages that seem inconsistent.
 - E. Note passages that generate a strong positive or negative response.
- 4. Write questions where you made annotations.** These questions can be for the instructor to answer, for the class to discuss, for you to use in future writing assignments, or for you to keep as a reminder of what you were thinking.
- 5. Think about the connections** between this text and other texts you have read, information from other classes, and personal experiences.