

# Annotation Guide

When you **annotate**, you are literally writing on your text. In order to successfully annotate, you need to do a close reading. **Close reading** is very different from most of the reading you do. It is not the way you usually read for leisure, for example, the way you probably read *Cosmopolitan* or *Sports Illustrated*. *Close reading is like having a dialogue with your text.* As you read you are commenting, asking questions, making predictions, and making connections.



Below is a list of some of the things you should be doing as you read. These are all opportunities to annotate your text in a way that is *helpful to you*.

## Commenting

- ↳ Your reactions and responses.
- ↳ Ideas you find interesting.
- ↳ Transitions in an essay or important events in a story.
- ↳ Ideas, characters, and writing you like or dislike.

## Asking Questions

- ↳ What is the **main idea/argument**?
- ↳ Anything you don't understand. Ex. Vocabulary, dates, history, etc.
- ↳ Whenever you disagree with, or are unsure about what the author is saying.
- ↳ Try to understand **why** an author is making a certain point.
- ↳ Try to understand **how** an author is making a certain point.

## Making Predictions

- ↳ Consider what the *author* might do next. What argument will she make? How?
- ↳ What do you suspect the overall point is going to be? (If it isn't clear at first)
- ↳ How will the story/essay conclude or find resolution?

## Making Connections

- ↳ Look for ideas that relate to what you're learning in other classes.
- ↳ Be aware of how the text might relate to your own life.
- ↳ Compare and Contrast your current text with other texts.
- ↳ Listen to the news for events and people that remind you of the text.

With so many possible ways to “get into” the text, you will be able to better understand and enjoy the works we'll be reading. You may also occasionally dislike the works we read, and that's okay, as long as you continue your “dialogue” with the text by challenging it and asking questions. Never let yourself be intimidated by a text. If you read CLOSELY you will ALWAYS learn something from your reading!

