

RoW Annotation Guide & Rubric: “Annotation” refers to adding analytical, critical, or explanatory notes to a text; otherwise known as active reading, it is your way of interacting with a text.

How?

- Read!
- Have something to write with.
- Be ready to think.
- Mark the text as you read with thoughts, connections, questions, reactions, emotions, discoveries, definitions, explanations. MORE IS MORE.
- Consider: Diction (word choice), Imagery (sensory language), selection of Details (including structure of text), figurative Language, and Syntax (word order, sentence structure).

Need some help? Try the following...

1. Write a question in the margin when you don't understand or wonder.
2. **Underline words you don't know. Look up definitions and write them in the margin.**
3. Draw an arrow and label something you think is important.
4. Draw squiggly lines under something that surprised or enlightened you.
5. Use txt language (lol, smh, etc.) or draw little faces to show an emotional response.
6. Write a ? next to portions that are confusing and try to explain what is confusing about it.
7. **Draw a box around what you believe is the main idea of the text and label it as such.**
8. Write a brief comment or reflection at the bottom of the page.
9. **Using a phrase or a short sentence, summarize each paragraph in the margin.**
10. Draw a hook next to the part of the text that hooked your attention. Explain why it did so.
11. In the margin, draw a picture that illustrates a portion of the text.
12. Answer the 5Ws and 1H or mark them in the text with Ws and an H.
13. Make a note of places that contradict or counter the key point.

There is no one way to annotate a text. It can involve any of the following:

- summarizing a passage or chunk of paragraphs
- paraphrasing difficult text into your own words--simple, easy-to-understand language
- recording questions that enter your mind as you read • defining vocabulary, terms, or references to help you comprehend the text
- marking sentences or word choices that you feel are significant
- identifying important moments in the plot, such as conflict and tension
- figuring out the point of view of the story
- commenting on info about characters and how they change
- connecting the text to your life, pop culture, society, history
 - noting details about the setting, time period, culture, world of the story
- analyzing the author's craft—figurative language, literary devices, description, how the text is organized, sentence structure, tone, mood, word choice, style, etc.
- predicting what may happen next
- drawing pictures to help you better visualize something in the text
- charting your own reading comprehension—marking places that confuse you that you need to reread, further break down, or discuss
- marking writing, ideas, or choices the writer makes that intrigue, delight, disturb, surprise, or move you
- recognizing big picture thematic ideas that emerge from the text

Rubric for RoW + / 18 pts.

3 pts. Use of proper color-coded highlights/side comments.

5 pts. Summary paragraph (avoid use of first person pronouns: *I, me, my*).

5 pts. Analysis paragraph: (find two forms of evidence) Reflects on the writer's style

- **Think about the techniques the writer used - HOW it was written, his/her/their word choice, the way the text was organized, the quality of the evidence, tone, figurative language. Use literary devices whenever possible! Aim for two points of analysis.**
- **Use evidence from the text and discuss what techniques the writer is using. **Work on blending and attributing your quotes!****

5 pts. Response paragraph: Use your opinion here, not on how the article was written. It is ok to use first person pronouns in this paragraph!