What is Close and Critical Reading? Well, it is more than reading!

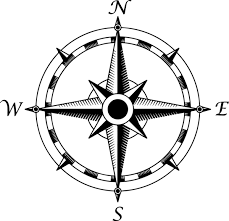
Be ACTIVE

1. Preview the text

Take note of date and place it was published, title, author’s name, genre, length, organization, sub-headings, footnotes, and visuals.

1. annotate and ask questions.

\*You must have a **PENCIL** & **HIGHLIGHTER** in hand.



What is annotating? Annotating is when the reader records his observations and ideas about the text. It provides you with a map of your experience and allows you to trace your route back through the text. Think of a text as an unknown territory that you are required to explore, map, and report back on. The annotations provide you with a kind of travel diary and map of the text. Be sure that your annotations are neat and legible.

ANNOTATION KEY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Highlight & Label | Main ideas, thesis, claims |
| [ ] | Main idea/claim |
|  | Impactful and important diction |
| Underline & Label stylistic elements | Figurative speech, parallelism, attention-getter, call to action, rhetorical question, counter-argument, analogy |
| ? | Confusing passages or sections |
| \* | Important details |
| With Notes | Write out & describe your observations/ideas in the margins. Use arrows to connect where in the text that idea relates to. |
| Bottom of page | Nutshell summary & author’s purpose. 3 Sentences |
| Top of page describe the tone | 2 complementary words |
|  | Describe connects between text and other texts or pop culture |

Critical Reader Checklist:

* Paraphrase and summarize the text in a nutshell. The main ideas! The WHAT.
* Analyze the way the text achieves its effect with stylistic choices. So HOW does the text convey ideas. Author’s craft and tactics. (SOAPStone & DIDLS)
* Evaluate a text to determine if it is credible and convincing. What evidence is used.
* Determine the text’s purpose and significance.
* Make connections between the text and other texts.

Ask Questions

* What is the claim? Does the claim remain constant or evolve?
* What methods of support does the author use?
  + Illustration
  + Example
  + Description
  + Personal experience
  + History
  + Statistics and data
  + Siting authorities
  + Analogies
* Is this an argument on value? Is it directly or indirectly discussing morality on an issue?
* Does the author use any oversimplifications, generalizations, false analogy, erroneous cause and effect, narrow minded either/or thinking.
* Does the author use special terms or jargon?
* What is the level of the discourse?
* What stylistic choices are made by the author and why?
* What can conclusions can we draw about the speaker, audience, and topic?