

Annotating Text Reference Guide

To **annotate** means to read thoughtfully and leave behind evidence that you have *interacted with and thought about the text*. This evidence is the writing you leave in the margins of the text, or your annotations.

There are four different ways in which you can annotate. Each of these ways will show that you read thoughtfully and interacted with the text. Any time you read, especially non-fiction, you should try to use all four throughout the text.

Type of Annotation	What is it?	Examples:	What is NOT acceptable:
Paraphrase	Re-write a difficult passage. This shows that you took the time to stop, think and put the information into your own words .	<p>“Wildfires are spreading throughout the state of California.”</p> <p>“Scientists have discovered a new medicine to treat the measles.”</p>	<p>“Wildfires.”</p> <p>“Medicine”</p> <p>One word or fragmented responses are NOT examples of paraphrasing. Someone should be able to read your annotation and know what the text was about.</p>
Connection	Write down a connection you have to a particular part of the text. You can connect to your own life, something you have read before or seen before. Basically, this is showing that you are taking the text and applying it to what you already know.	<p>“This happened to me last year – our family was camping and we had to escape a bear!”</p> <p>“That sounds just like the time when our school held a mock election for the President.”</p>	<p>“That happened to me.”</p> <p>“I heard about that before.”</p> <p>“I did that.”</p> <p>“This sounds like fun.”</p>
Question	When you stop and ask yourself a question about what you are reading , you are showing that you are thinking and that you are trying to make sense of what the text is saying.	<p>“I wonder why so many people are allergic to nuts now?”</p> <p>“I wonder why why so many professional athletes turn to steroid use, knowing the effects?”</p>	<p>“I wonder why?”</p> <p>“Why?”</p> <p>“What?”</p> <p>“How?”</p>
Visualize	Often times, good readers visualize, or see in their head, what they are reading. Stop and draw a quick picture that represents what the text is saying . This will serve as a reminder for you later when you go back in the text.		

