Annotating a Text

Annotating your text helps you to engage with the material, remember the main emphases of the text, and prepare you for any discussions about the material.

Symbolic Notations

- Underline important ideas and key words.
- Circle any words you need to define.
- Identity and connect key points and/or ideas. Use numbers, highlighters, or different color pens to connect related ideas or to mark major points.

Respond to the Text

- Write any comments (I agree, you’re an idiot, that contradicts your previous point, right on!) or questions (What does that mean? Are you claiming to understand what they are going through? But how would your philosophy play out in the real world?) in the margins.
- Identify similarities to or differences from other texts on the subject and your own experience.
- Define important terms and unfamiliar words.
- Identify and mark the main idea of the text for easy reference.
- Identify and summarized the most important point(s) in each paragraph.
- Mark any quotations that may be important as you attempt to write about this text.
- Note any patterns the writer uses.