

## • Reading Strategies

Reading is an exchange of information between writer and reader. Both the writer and the reader play a role in constructing an interpretation of the text between them. Talking back to a text (writing in margins, underlining, circling, and diagramming) can help you become an active reader. Your notations on a text will also assist you when you return to the text for class discussion, writing assignments, or exams.

## Notation Strategies

Ultimately, you will want to develop your own system using marginalia, underlining, and symbols. The following are a few ideas.

Write in the margin to:

- Sum up key points
- Ask questions

Use brackets and writing in the margin to identify:

- The author's claim or thesis
- Key supports
- Definitions for key terms
- Use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, repetition, etc.)
- Use of intertextuality (an author's reference implicit or explicit reference to other texts)

Underline and/or star:

- Key quotes
- Key phrases

Circle Terms:

- Critical to the text, words frequently repeated
- You don't know, then define in the margins

## Questions to consider when reading:

**Subject:** What is the general subject of the text? What associations do you have with that subject matter?

**Author/Filters:** What is the author's relationship to the topic?

**Context:** What is the historical and social context in which this piece was written?

**Claim/Thesis:** What claim or thesis does the author make regarding this subject?

**Purpose:** What is the purpose of the text? (Encourage action, change opinions, entertain, create awareness)

**Methods:** How does the author go about developing and presenting his/her ideas?

**Support:** How does the author support his/her thesis?

**Genre:** What genre is used?

**Tone:** What is the tone of the text? How does that tone affect your reaction?

**Figurative Language:** Is figurative language used (metaphors, similes, analogies, repetition, anaphora, parallelism, etc.)