

ANNOTATION OF SCIENCE TEXT

When a student receives an article to read, they often times do not know how to appropriately analyze the text. Science articles can be particularly challenging due to the complex vocabulary and conceptual content.

Annotating text can help students to properly focus on the reading material, and acquire appropriate information and context by dissecting what they are reading. After students have properly annotated their text, as the teacher, you can then choose to have them write summaries, peer edit annotation, group discuss the paper with leading questions, write position or research papers, etc.

See below for mini-handouts that you can give to your students to use while they work.

- Number all paragraphs
- Underline topic sentences and main ideas
- Highlight science terms
 - In the margins, put the definition of each terms
- Circle words or phrases you do not understand
 - In the margins, write what you think those phrases might mean
- When something in the text connects with you, write in the margins how it connects
- If this is a research article identify the experimental question, hypothesis and variables with stars
 - In the margin, identify these items specifically
- When done reading, write a 3 to 4 sentence summary

ANNOTATING TEXT

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- **Highlight** science terms
 - Define in the margins
- Circle confusing words/phrases
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