

## Annotation Guide

Annotations are notes written directly on the text. They reflect your brain at work as you determine **what the text says, what it means, and why it matters** (your response to the ideas). Your annotation should reflect how well you understand the text. By thinking about why the text matters, a strong annotation will begin to look like a conversation between you and the author.

### Annotation involves...

Decoding what the text <b>says</b> :	Interpreting what the author <b>means</b> :	Analyzing why it <b>matters</b> :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining difficult words as necessary</li> <li>• Paraphrasing the author’s language to ensure understanding</li> <li>• Writing questions where you have confusions about literal meaning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighting, circling, or underlining important phrases or words</li> <li>• Making inferences</li> <li>• Writing down observations about the tone, attitude, style, or structure of the text</li> <li>• Making note of literary devices and their effects</li> <li>• Connecting the passage to ideas or passages in the same text</li> <li>• Writing questions about the author’s choices</li> <li>• Writing the author’s main idea or theme in your own words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting your own thoughts, feelings, or criticisms in the margins of the text</li> <li>• Raising critical questions</li> <li>• Connecting the text to your own experiences</li> <li>• Connecting the text to our world (current events, history, etc.)</li> <li>• Connecting the text to other texts</li> <li>• Articulating your response to the author’s ideas</li> </ul>

### Annotation Scoring

- 5 The text is highlighted or underlined with **extensive and insightful** margin notes. The annotations demonstrate the student has **carefully read and considered** the text’s meaning. The margin notes serve as an abbreviated **outline** of what the texts **says**, what the text **means**, and what the reader **thinks about it**.
- 4 The text is highlighted or underlined with **strong** margin notes, but these notes may not be as extensive or insightful as the level ‘5’ annotations. The annotations demonstrate the student has **considered** what the text says, what the text **means**, and what the reader **thinks about it**.
- 3 The text is highlighted or underlined and includes **some** margin notes. These annotations demonstrate a **less thorough** reading of the work. They may capture what the text says but offer little or no insight.
- 2 The text has some highlighting or underlining but **few** margin notes. The minimal annotations make it **difficult to determine the degree to which the reader understands the text**.
- 1 There are a few marks, but **not enough to determine any sense of understanding**.
- 0 The text is unmarked.