

Annotating in Five Easy Steps

Grab a textbook for this activity!

Follow the directions below:

1. Find a short phrase that succinctly expresses the MAIN IDEA of the passage. Draw a box around it in the text and write “*main idea*” in the space in the margin.
2. Find brief definitions. **Circle** the terms, **underline** the definitions, and write “*def*” in the space in the margin. If you find any additional definitions, do the same with them.
3. Write “**ex**” (for example) in the margin next to any examples or illustrations.
4. Put a (?) in the margin next to anything you do not understand.
5. Put a (!) in the margin next to anything you think is especially important.

NOTE: You do not always have to do ALL of the above. With practice, this will come naturally. It is OK to develop your own “system.” Also, a helpful strategy is to create possible test questions from your text readings.

Now imagine you will be tested on this passage. Write two questions based on the passage.

1. _____

2. _____

