

TITLE: Directed Learning Activity: Annotating
--

Author: Elizabeth O'Scanlon of Santa Barbara City College. Adapted for Ventura College by Kelly Peinado

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO): Student will be able to annotate an assigned text.

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE: Annotating is reading with a pencil. It includes pulling out essential ideas, restating the main ideas in your own words, writing notes in the margin of a text, circling words you don't know, noting questions you have about the text, interacting with the text, noting ideas that you don't agree with, and relating text to your own experience.

Annotation suggestions:

- Write notes in the margin of a text.
- Circle words you don't know.
- Note questions you have about the text.
- Focus on and underline main ideas and important details.
- Restate ideas in your own words.
- Note things that you DON'T think are correct.
- Relate text to your own experience.
- Make notes brief and neat.
- OK to include highlighting or marking your text, but this alone DELAYS learning.
- Put a **?** if you don't understand something.
- It's OK to include your own thoughts, opinions and connections.

ACTIVITY: (20 - 25 minutes)

1. Ideally, the student should come to the tutoring session with a reading assignment from his/her class. If not, however, the attached **sample reading** can be used for practice.
2. The tutor should help the student go over the "Annotation Suggestions" listed above. Make sure student understands each suggestion.
3. First, using a pencil, the tutor should model annotating for the student on one or two paragraphs of the reading. Read and voice your thoughts out loud as you are doing it.
4. Then, ask the student to read and annotate the next paragraph. Tutor should look at those annotations, and praise good choices. Also, question choices that are not clear to you or you think might not be helpful. Make a few suggestions, but don't overwhelm the student with too many instructions.

5. Ask the student to go on to the next paragraph. Again, reinforce good choices and give some suggestions.

6. When the end of the 20 minute session is approaching, ask the student to answer the following questions:

- What was the topic of the text? _____
- What was the main idea? _____
- List three important details:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- What was the most difficult part of this assignment for you? Explain.
- How will you use this skill in the future?

REVIEW:

Tutor asks student to review the list of Annotation Suggestions.