ANNOTATING SCIENCE ARTICLES

As part of any science class, you will be required to read about scientific topics, either as journal articles, news sources, and even charts and graphs. The ACT science test will assess your ability to read complex scientific texts, and hopefully by the time you get there, you will be pro at it.

ANNOTATE - ADD NOTES TO WHAT YOU ARE READING USING POST-ITS or WRITING IN MARGINS

- OFFER EXPLANATIONS OF MAIN IDEAS FROM PARAGRAPHS IN OWN WORDS
- COMMENTS THAT POP INTO YOUR HEAD (PERSONAL CONNECTIONS)
- OPINIONS
- QUESTIONS THAT ARISE WHILE READING
- DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Annotation takes practice, and the better you are at it, the better you will be at reading complicated articles. For each article, please complete the following.

1. At the top of your paper indicate your name, title of the article, author, date published, and source.
2. Scan the document you are annotating. Some obvious clues will be apparent before you read it, such as titles or headers for sections. Read the first paragraph. Somewhere there (or possibly in the 2nd paragraph) there should be a MAIN IDEA about what the article is going to be about. At the top of the page, write down the main idea of the article in your own words. This should be 1-2 sentences long.
3. Highlight topic sentences or phrases that express the main idea for each paragraph or section. You should never underline more than 5 words, though for large paragraphs or blocks of text, you can use brackets. Write in the margin next to these underlines a quick summary in your own words of the paragraph or the idea being expressed.
4. Anytime the author makes a statement that you can connect with on a PERSONAL level, annotate in the margins a summary of how this connects to you. Write any comments or observations you feel appropriate to the text, you can also add your personal opinion.
5. Place a box around any term or phrase that emphasizes scientific language. These could be words you are not familiar with, define those words in the margins.
6. If you encounter an idea, word, or phrase you don't understand, circle it and put a question mark in the margin that indicates an area of confusion, write the question in the margin.

To summarize how you will annotate text:

1. Identify the BIG IDEA
2. Underline topic sentences or main ideas for each paragraph & write a one to two sentence summary
3. Add at least 1 personal connection to the article
4. Define 5 key terms as well as a synonym for each.

TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT, 12 PT, DOUBLE SPACE
**Assessment Rubric**

5 pts: A majority of the annotations are thoughtful, insightful, exhibits deep understanding of content,

4 pts: Most annotations are thoughtful, insightful, exhibits deep understanding of content

3 pts: Some annotations are thoughtful and show that student understands content and made an effort to read closely

2 pts: Very few annotations, at least 1-2 show that student has a rudimentary understanding of the content

1 pt: Very few annotations, irrelevant annotations, it is not apparent that student read the article

**Annotations Checklist:**

Identifies the main idea of the article

Asks thoughtful questions ___

Underlines author's main points ___

Summarizes or clarifies main points of each paragraph___

Identifies difficult or technical words ___

Adds personal connections or opinions ___
Name
Title: __________________
Author: ___________________
Date: ______________________
Source: ______________________
(also add URL)

**MAIN IDEA:**

P1:

P2:

P3:

P4:

**Personal Connection**

**KEY TERMS**

1. WORD (synonym): definition