

Marking the Text¹

AVID Teacher Reference

Number the Paragraphs

- ① Before you read, take a moment and number the paragraphs in the section you are planning to read. Start with the number one and continue numbering sequentially until you reach the end of the text or reading assignment. Write the number near the paragraph indentation and circle the number; write it small enough so that you have room to write in the margin.
- ② Like page numbers, paragraph numbers will act as a reference so you can easily refer to specific sections of the text.

Circle Key Terms, Names of People, Names of Places, and or Dates

In order to identify a **key term**, consider if the word or phrase is...

- repeated
- defined by the author
- used to explain or represent an idea
- used in an original (unique) way
- a central concept or idea
- relevant to one's reading purpose

Underline an Author's Claims

A claim is an arguable statement or assertion made by the author. Data, facts, or other backing should support an author's assertion.² Consider the following statements:

- A claim may appear anywhere in the text (beginning, middle, or end)

- A claim may not appear explicitly in the argument, so the reader must infer it from the evidence presented in the text
- Often, an author will make several claims throughout his or her argument
- An author may signal his or her claim, letting you know that this is his or her position

Underline Relevant Information

While reading informational texts (i.e., textbooks, reference books, etc.) read carefully to identify information that is relevant to the reading task. Relevant information might include:

- A process
- Evidence
- Definitions
- Explanations
- Descriptions
- Data/Statistics

¹ Marking the text is a strategy used by the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies at SDSU.

² For more on this definition see Stephen E. Toulmin's, *The Uses of Argument* (11-13).

Writing in the Margins: *Six Strategies at a Glance*

This table provides six strategies that help readers understand texts. While making connections, clarifying information, or doing other work defined on this page, write down your thoughts in the margins of the text, on sticky notes, or in your Cornell notes.

<p>Visualize</p> <p>Visualize what the author is saying and draw an illustration in the margin. Visualizing what authors say will help you clarify complex concepts and ideas.</p> <p>When visualizing, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this look like? • How can I draw this concept/idea? • What visual and/or symbol best represents this idea? 	<p>Summarize</p> <p>Briefly summarize paragraphs or sections of a text. Summarizing is a good way to keep track of essential information while gaining control of lengthier passages.</p> <p>Summaries will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state what the paragraph is about • describe what the author is doing • account for key terms and/or ideas
<p>Clarify</p> <p>Clarify complex ideas presented in the text. Readers clarify ideas through a process of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Pausing to clarify ideas will increase your understanding of the ideas in the text.</p> <p>In order to clarify information, you might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define key terms • reread sections of the text • analyze or connect ideas in the text • paraphrase or summarize ideas 	<p>Connect</p> <p>Make connections within the reading to your own life and to the world. Making connections will improve your comprehension of the text.</p> <p>While reading, you might ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this relate to me? • How does this idea relate to other ideas in the text? • How does this relate to the world?
<p>Respond</p> <p>Respond to ideas in the text as you read. Your responses can be personal or analytical in nature. Thoughtful responses will increase engagement and comprehension.</p> <p>Readers will often respond to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interesting ideas • emotional arguments • provocative statements • author's claims • facts, data, and other support 	<p>Question</p> <p>Question both the ideas in the text and your own understanding of the text. Asking good questions while reading will help you become a more critical reader.</p> <p>While reading, you might ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author saying here? • What is the author doing? • What do I understand so far? • What is the purpose of this section? • What do I agree/disagree with?

3.13: Inquiry in Tutorial

Costa's Levels of Thinking

To better understand the content being presented in their core subject areas, it is essential for students to learn to think critically and to ask higher levels of questions. By asking higher levels of questions, students deepen their knowledge and create connections to the material being presented. Students need to be familiar with Costa's (and/or Bloom's) Levels of Thinking to assist them in formulating higher levels of questions.

3—Applying

(Off the Page)

Evaluate
Judge
If/Then

Generalize
Predict
Hypothesize

Imagine
Speculate
Forecast

2—Processing

(Between the Lines)

Compare
Sort
Infer

Contrast
Distinguish
Analyze

Classify
Explain (Why?)

1—Gathering

(On the Page)

Complete
Identify
Recite

Define
List
Select

Describe
Observe

1970-1971

The following table shows the results of the survey conducted in 1970-1971. The data is presented in a tabular format, with columns representing different categories and rows representing different sub-categories. The total number of respondents is 1000.

Category	Sub-Category	Percentage
Group 1	Sub-Category 1.1	15%
	Sub-Category 1.2	25%
	Sub-Category 1.3	60%
Group 2	Sub-Category 2.1	10%
	Sub-Category 2.2	30%
	Sub-Category 2.3	60%
Group 3	Sub-Category 3.1	12%
	Sub-Category 3.2	28%
	Sub-Category 3.3	60%
Group 4	Sub-Category 4.1	18%
	Sub-Category 4.2	22%
	Sub-Category 4.3	60%
Group 5	Sub-Category 5.1	14%
	Sub-Category 5.2	26%
	Sub-Category 5.3	60%

