

## **Annotating a Text**

1. **Pick up** a pencil, a pen, or a post-it.
2. **Read everything at least twice.**

**The first time**, read quickly to get a sense of what the text is about.

**The second and subsequent times** read carefully.

Mark anything that you think is:

- A. confusing,
- B. interesting
- C. surprising, or
- D. important.

Mark anything that is unfamiliar and keep going.

3. **Begin to annotate.**
  - A. Circle, underline, or stick on a post-it for important ideas and explain their significance.
  - B. Mark repetitions or rhetorical signals.
  - C. Circle confusing words or phrases. Define from context or dictionary if possible.
  - D. Note passages that seem inconsistent.
  - E. Note passages that generate a strong positive or negative response.
4. **Write questions where you made annotations.** These questions can be for the instructor to answer, for the class to discuss, for you to use in future writing assignments, or for you to keep as a reminder of what you were thinking.
5. **Think about the connections** between this text and other texts you have read, information from other classes, and personal experiences.