

HOW TO HIGHLIGHT AND ANNOTATE A READING

You will need: 1) a highlighter 2) a pencil (NOT a pen!)

STEP 1. Read the title and introduction (if there is one) carefully. What do you think the article will be about?

Practice:

“The Prosperous Few and the Restless Many”, by Noam Chomsky
What do you think the article is about?

STEP 2. Read the first sentence of the 1st paragraph carefully, skim the middle of the paragraph, and read the last sentence of the paragraph carefully. If you had to choose eight (or less) words in the whole paragraph, what would they be? Highlight them with your marker. Sometimes, the whole paragraph may be details, with no main argument. In that case, don't highlight anything! That's ok!

Practice:

Latin America was more complex, but the initial population was virtually destroyed within a hundred and fifty years. Meanwhile, Africans were brought over as slaves. That helped devastate Africa even before the colonial period, then the conquest of Africa drove it back even further. -Noam Chomsky

Did you highlight anything?

STEP 3. What three words do you think best summarizes the paragraph? Write these words in the white space next to the paragraph.

Practice:

That's the traditional pattern. Invaders quite typically use collaborators to run things for them. They very naturally play upon any existing rivalries and hostilities to get one group to work for them against others. -Noam Chomsky

THAT'S IT! Easy, huh? Finish the whole reading now!