

Annotating Text (Close Reading) for Social Studies

Directions: Close reading requires you to read the passage(s) two or three times. Each time you read you will develop a deeper understanding of the text. Close reading is like having a conversation with your book or whatever it is that you are trying to close read. Sometimes close reading is called annotating text.

For our purposes this is the way I want you to close read your article:

First read:

- Read the article for overall meaning and first impressions.
- Save any “marking” for second reading.

Second Reading:

- This time, read the article *more carefully*.
- # The paragraphs off to the sides.
- **Circle** words you do not understand
- **Highlight** important ideas (Be careful not to highlight too much!)
- If several lines seem important use **brackets** to show that.
- Use an * (**asterisk**) next to important passages
- Write **comments/questions** in the margin space.
- Mark passages you find confusing with **question marks (??)**
- Feel free to **draw a picture** when a visual connection is appropriate.
- Use **sticky notes** if there is not enough room in the margin for comments/questions.