Annotation and Close Reading Strategies

One of the most important concepts is that close reading and annotating is key to understanding and analyzing the texts you will be reading. Close reading and annotation helps you to slow down and observe writer’s language choices to determine how and why writers use language the way they do.

TIPS:

1. Circle words you do not know. Write in the definition.
2. Identify Main Ideas (ID Mis).
3. Look for rhetorical devices such as word choice pattern, sentence structure, figurative tone. If you don’t know the technical term (not to worry), just note it down.
4. Ask questions and comment on what you read.
   1. Note when a passage DMS (doesn’t make sense).
   2. Details seem important.
   3. You are making a connection to real life or another text.
5. Note when your reading changes.
   1. You see a pattern.
   2. You note a change.
   3. You realize you misread something.
   4. You note something new.

THREE KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What effect is the writer striving for by using language the way he/she does
2. How does he/she create this effect
3. How does the effect serve the author’s purpose?