

Margin Notes

Identify a purpose for your notes or experiment with margin notes from a specific stance. Imagine it as a dialogue with yourself or with the author.

FROM AN ANALYTICAL STANCE, A READER NOTICES...	READER RESPONDS WITH...
Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Text structure Chain of logic Points of confusion Nature of evidence (data, story, opinion) Motivation, point of view Authority, credibility Currency Points of interest to return to later	underlining or highlighting top-of-page notes, key ideas on post-it notes asks question, labels with question mark color key circle word and define or underline and label DEF [bracket chunks of text] with summary words number (1, 2, 3...) items in a list label evidence (EV) and examples (EX) create drawings, graphic organizers, timeline summary at the beginning of the chapter unsure of value (??)
FROM AN EMOTIONAL STANCE, A READER NOTICES...	READER RESPONDS WITH...
Own feelings Gut-level responses Author's tone, choice of words, stance Surprising or fascinating but not related to need	Visuals or icons... ! (exclamation point) ? (question mark) ; (emoticon) ! (heart) ✓ (check) ✱ (star) WOW (neat but irrelevant)
FROM AN AESTHETIC STANCE, A READER NOTICES...	READER RESPONDS WITH...
Apt phrasing Vivid metaphor Unusual view Compelling narrative	Circle or [brackets] + appreciative words Connecting arrows and lines ! (exclamation point)
IN EVALUATIVE OR RESISTANT STANCE, READER NOTICES...	READER RESPONDS WITH...
Why not? Who cares? Can it be ignored? Who is not represented? Counts for what?	<u>underscore</u> ? (question mark) [bracket chunks of text] + evaluative words (no, true, untrue)