

"Annolighting" A Text

Learning how to highlight a text as a part of a reading strategy will help you comprehend the text that you read in English and in any class that you are currently taking or will take in the future. If done well, highlighting can be a very effective reading tool. If it is done poorly, however, it is most likely a waste of time.

"Annolighting" a text combines effective highlighting with marginal annotations that help to explain highlighted words and phrases.

Purposes/Goals of Annolighting

- 1) To capture main ideas/key concepts/details within the text
- 2) To target, reduce, and distill the needed information from a text
- 3) To cut down on study and review time when you return to the material—this increases your effective and efficient use of time and effort
- 4) To strengthen your reading comprehension

What does Annolighting look Like?

Step 1: Ask yourself: "What is the purpose or the intended goal of this particular reading? Is it for main ideas only? Is it to obtain supporting details for an interpretation that you are making? Is it obtaining definitions and key vocabulary?"

Once you determine the focus, you highlight only the targeted information.

Step 2: Do not highlight on the first reading of the text.

- Divide the reading into manageable chunks and read a section once.
- Skim the section again and highlight on the second reading.

If you try to highlight on the first reading, you may not have a clear sense of the key ideas/concepts or important/relevant details.

Step 3: Eliminate every single unnecessary word in a sentence. Rarely should you highlight entire sentences unless it is absolutely necessary based on your targeted focus.

Step 4: You may want to use multiple colors in your highlighting process.

For example, choose one color for main ideas and another color for supportive detail that may help you sort the information when you study the material or collect information for an essay or a project.