Annotation Symbols - 8th grade ELA

All characters and their descriptions should be highlighted in <u>pink</u>.
All details that capture the setting including proper nouns
should be highlighted in <u>blue</u>.

Symbol	Meaning
?	I have a question. Something is confusing.
★	Something is interesting and/or powerful
C	Making a personal connection with individual experience or previously acquired knowledge
✔	I agree with this passage/idea.
X	I disagree with this passage/idea.
!!	Surprising development Important development
M	Example of a metaphor
S	Example of a simile
T	Evidence of a theme
☐	Vocabulary words I don't know how to pronounce or don't know the meaning of
Q^1	Important quotes/evidence for a writing prompt
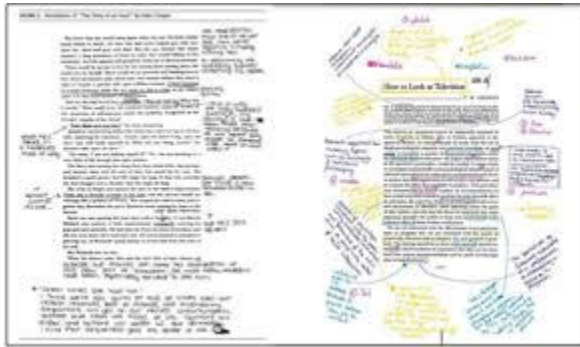
Why do we annotate:

1. Annotating **increases** your **concentration**. It forces you to think about and clarify the writer's ideas.

2. Annotating makes you a more **active reader**.
Your mind can't wander as much, so you'll remain more focused.

3. Annotating encourages you to **distinguish between the main ideas and supporting details** in a text. When you differentiate between key concepts and supporting details, you better understand the key concepts.

4. Annotating helps you **remember important information**.
When you rephrase material in your own words, you're putting it into your long-term memory.

5. Annotating helps you **monitor your learning**.
It forces you to select, reflect, and evaluate what you're reading.

6. Annotating allows **quick review** of important ideas later.
When you look through your textbooks, you'll be able to quickly identify important information. This helps you study for tests, participate in class discussions, and write papers.

7. Annotating provides **reference material** for future classes. It is easy to refer back to information already learned when you need it later.

8. Annotating makes it easier to **locate information** during discussions.

Annotation Guidelines

1. **READ**
The first thing you must ALWAYS do is read the information given.
READ the Title first and any introductory material at the top.
READ the subheads
READ one paragraph at a time.
READ footnotes at the bottom of the page.

2. **Circle keywords/phrases that are confusing or unknown**
Write a similar word (synonym) you do know next to the
unknown word after you look it up so that next time you read it,
the meaning of the sentence will be more clear to you.

3. <u>Underline</u> **or highlight all proper nouns and indicators of time** (years, months, days, hours, seasons, etc.).
<u>Underline</u> the major points in a single color.
EVERYTHING is not important.
Highlight what you would use if you were asked to do a summary
of the information given.

4. **Ask questions.**
Use a questions mark for questions that you have during the reading.
Write your question on the side somewhere so that you remember
to ask your teacher!

5. **Use an exclamation point "!" for things that surprise you.**
Briefly note what it was that caught your attention or what you find
interesting and might want to learn more about.

6. **Write a "C" when you make a connection to something in the text** -- it can be to an idea or experience outside the text that you
know about or something you experienced.
Briefly note your connections in the margins or in a blank space.
We understand and remember new information better when we can
tie it back to what you know or have experienced.

7. Write EX when the author provides an example for a key point.

Number the examples (1., 2., 3., etc.) so you can keep track of how the author supports their arguments.

8. Number key arguments and important ideas

This will help you write a summary and/or use evidence from the article/information to support your stance.

9. Post-it note a one-sentence summary for each paragraph.

Summarize the author's main point(s) in one sentence in your own words with the fewest words possible.