

Directions for Active Reading

To train yourself in the process of active reading, there are several things you will have to do. You can EITHER use different colored pens OR you may circle, underline and star (\*) information with one pen, as described below:

Red Pen or Circle: Identifying/clarifying key terms

- Single out at least three unfamiliar vocabulary terms.
- Define all of the terms in the margin and circle them.

Blue Pen or Underline: Identifying/Clarifying main ideas

- Single out key words and phrases that seem to be the main ideas the author wants to get across.
- Summarize the main ideas in the margin in your own words and underline the summary.

Black Pen or Asterisk (\*): Connecting/Evaluating/Synthesizing main ideas

- Briefly note in the margins any connections you have made.
- Briefly note in the margin questions, examples, counter-examples, counter-arguments or new ideas.
- Briefly note in the margin your evaluation of the main ideas.

Note: The directions above for marking texts apply to personal copies of selected texts. Most of you are using a textbook from the school textbook room for this unit, so you will use Post-its instead of marking directly in the book. Either choose Post-its in three colors or use single-color Post-its with three pen colors. Post-its also come in shapes, like stars and circles, if you prefer.

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