

Close Reading Strategies

1. Numbering the Paragraphs

It's important to be able to cite individual sections from the text. You also want to be able to refer back to certain sections when citing a specific quotation. It helps to number the paragraphs as you go along. This will make it much easier to find quotations later on. Numbering paragraphs will also help you understand the general outline of a text.

2. Breaking the Paragraphs into Separate Sections

Breaking down the text into smaller parts is essential for comprehending dense or complicated reading material. Understanding the general outline of a piece of writing, whether it's a poem, a short story, or an argumentative essay, helps the reader understand the overall meaning of a text. If you've completed step one, you'll have no problem with step two. You just have to group the paragraphs into separate sections (for example, paragraphs 1-3, 5-6, etc.). You can group them in any way that comes naturally to your understanding.

3. Underlining and Circling

Underlining and circling can be effective for quickly referring back to a section or quotation from a text. It doesn't help with memorization as much as many readers like to think. It helps to circle the names of important concepts, dates, statistics, vocabulary terms, characters, names and historical figures. You won't instantly memorize the information just by circling it, but it will help you reference important subjects. It works in some ways like the numbering system mentioned in step 1. The aim is to be able to navigate the text and narrow down its most prominent aspects.

4. Writing Between the Margins

The margins of printed text and books are great places for taking notes. Actively making notes as you go along helps with memorization. Your notes can also be used as a reference tool when constructing an essay or research paper. They will help you develop your understanding of the text as you read, and will also serve as place makers when you need to look back.

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The following work was referred to during the creation of this handout: [iTeach, iCoach, iBlog's "Five close reading strategies to support the Common Core."](#)



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