

Marking Up Text

One of the main reading strategies I'll expect you to use this year is called "Marking Up" text. Marking up is writing your thoughts in the margins on the page. These can include:

1. Sharing your **opinions** about what is happening
2. Making **connections**—from this text to history, from this text to your personal life, and from this text to current events.
3. Asking **questions** you have
4. **Previewing** the text, images and charts and **making predictions** about what reading will be about and/or what will happen
5. **Paraphrasing or summarizing** the main idea of the paragraph
6. **Circling words** you don't understand and substituting your best guess of what the word means.

Commonly asked questions:

What about highlighting and underlining? Does that count?

A mark up has to show me what you are thinking. You are always welcome to underline or highlight, but since highlighting and underlining don't show me your thoughts, so they don't count as mark ups.

How much do I have to mark up?

There is no single right answer, but my advice is that every normal sized paragraph should have at least one mark up.

Does it matter which types of mark ups you use?

The best one to use to make sure you understand the content is **paraphrasing**. But all have strengths if they are done well. You should not do all of one type—i.e. you should not do just questions, or just predictions. The best mark ups have a variety of thinking.

Do I use this strategy differently when I am reading VERY difficult texts, such as primary source documents?

Yes. Sometimes I will ask for an "intense mark up." This means that I'd want you to focus on identifying/substituting words you don't know and summarizing paragraphs. We will discuss that more later.