

# How to Annotate - A Guide for Year 12 English Students

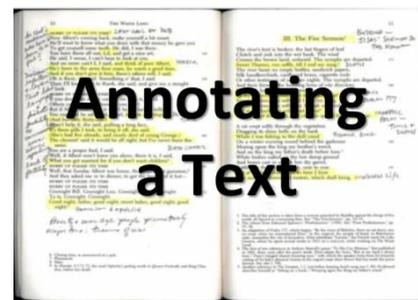
## What are annotations?

Annotations are when we:

1. Highlight or underline key pieces of information in a text (this can be done physically or electronically, depending on what type of text you are using.)

**AND**

2. Make our own written notes about the sections that we have highlighted or underlined.



## Why is it important to annotate?

- To help us to identify key pieces of information in a bigger text
- To help us to become active readers; to help us to think about what we are reading
- To connect our own understandings about the world with what we are reading
- To make revision easier, faster and more effective prior to SACs and the exam
- To help us to learn what we are reading more effectively and efficiently
- To help us to remember questions we may have for our teachers

## How to Annotate Reading and Responding Texts

In 2015, our Year 12 Reading and Responding texts are:

- ✓ *Cloudstreet* by Tim Winton
- ✓ *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga

### What to look for in your annotations for reading and responding:

- Words that you don't fully understand (define them) and questions for your teacher
- Key pieces of information about characters
- Key ideas relating to major themes and messages
- Key ideas relating to the writer's values
- Key ideas relating to recurring symbols or motifs used by the writer
- Notes on the writer's authorial choices (style, structure, genre, language etc.)
- Information that provides an understanding of the setting (time and place) of the text

## How to Annotate Context Texts

In 2015, our Year 12 context is *Encountering Conflict*. Our texts are:

- ✓ *Every Man in this Village is a Liar* by Megan Stack
- ✓ *A Separation* (film) by Asghar Farhadi

### Questions to help you to annotate your context texts:

- Words that you don't fully understand (define them) and questions for your teacher
- What types of conflict are being explored/revealed/remembered?
- Who is being affected by the conflict?
- How are individuals and groups being affected by the conflict in different ways?
- Is everyone affected by the conflict equally? Why/why not?
- How are different groups and individuals reacting to conflict?
- How are different groups and individuals dealing with the conflict?
- How are different groups and individuals trying to resolve the conflict?
- What resonates with you?
- What ideas about encountering conflict might we think about in response to different parts of this text?

## Two annotation strategies that might help for Reading and Responding AND Context

### Writer and Me

1. Underline or highlight what you think is a key piece of information or something that resonates with you in the text.
2. Draw a line from the part underlined (or make an electronic note if using an ebook).
3. Write your own notes about what you think in relation to this section highlighted.

### The 3 Rs

1. As you read a chapter or section of the text, underline everything that you think is important or that resonates with you.
2. At the end of the chapter or section, decide what your top three annotations are in that section (what is most important, or what resonates with you the most).
3. Explain reasons for each of your top 3 annotations. Why were they important to you?

## How to Annotate Persuasive Language Analysis Texts

These questions will help you to know what you are looking for when reading persuasive texts:

- What is the writer's main contention?
- What is the writer's supporting arguments?
- What is the tone in different parts of the text? Where and why does it change?
- What persuasive strategies are being used?
- What is the desired effect of the tone and persuasive strategies? (*What is the reader to think or believe? AND/OR How is the reader to feel? AND/OR What action is the reader encouraged to take?*)
- What is the main strategy, approach or goal?
- How is the piece structured? What is the desired effect?
- What images are there? What type of images are they?
- How do they connect with the writer's argument?
- What persuasive devices are being used in the image?
- What is the desired effect of the images and the devices used within them?

