**How to
 Annotate**

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 ***To Annotate*: to explain, interpret, comment on, make notes about. As you read, stop occasionally to record your thoughts, reactions, connections and concerns. Dialogue with the text.**

**FICTION Look Fors:
1.** **Setting**: How it’s described (date, time, place, weather); What kind of MOOD does the setting create?
**2.** **Character**: Descriptions (physical, behavioral, emotional); Consider: How they speak; What you learn about them (from their description, actions, interactions with others, dialogue, and what others say about them). Is there a foil? Why?
**3.** **Conflict**: Look for both the internal and the external as well as what causes them.
**4. Plot**: What are the key events? Why/how are they important?
**5. Theme:** Find passages (of narration or dialogue) that suggest or connect to a universal truth, lesson, or statement about society or humanity.
**6. Symbolism:** Note any objects, characters, or ideas that serve to represent something beyond themselves.
**7. Tone:** what are the narrator’s feelings toward the subject matter?; emotion and how it is conveyed?
**8. Mood:** How does a particular passage, description, event, etc. affect you? How are you feeling as you read?
**9. Language and style:** Comment on the author’s use of motifs (recurring objects or ideas), note literary examples of figurative language, imagery, foreshadowing, organization, or other literary devices. *Most importantly, don’t merely IDENTIFY devices used. Talk about HOW the use of the devices help the author make his point, develop the theme, the plot, etc.*
**10. Question:** Note items that you don’t understand (vocabulary, phrase, etc.)
**11. Predict:** what do you think will come next?
**12. Infer:** Make an educated guess about characters or events based on what you already know.
**13. Visualize:** What do you picture as you read this passage?
**14. Make connections:** What does this passage remind you of; something you’ve read about, seen on TV or at the movies, a place you’ve visited, etc.?
**15. Audience:** To whom might the text be directed?

**Non-Fiction Look Fors:
1. Subject:** What is the subject of the text? What makes you think so?
**2. Occasion:** What is the context of the text? When was it written? What do you know about the period? Setting? Speaker?
**3. Tone:** What are the author’s feelings toward the subject? How is it conveyed? Which devices are used to create the tone?
**4. Speaker:** What do we know (if anything) about the speaker/author?
**5. Mood:** How does a particular passage, description, event, etc. affect the reader? How do you think the intended audience is expected to feel as they listen, read, etc.?
**6. Language and style:** Comment on the author’s use of literary and rhetorical devices (eg: allusions, metaphors, repetition, anaphora, etc.). Consult your glossary of AP Lang terms. What is the effect of each device? (Consider the three appeals: ethos, pathos, logos.)
**7. Questions:** Put a question mark in the margin next to any ideas/passages/terms you don’t understand or need further clarification. Look up any terms/vocabulary.
**8. Predict/infer:** What do you think will come next? Is there a call to action by the end of the text? What does the speaker seem (directly or indirectly) want the audience to do, consider, try, etc.?
**9. Make connections:** What does a passage/entire text/message/style of writing, etc. remind you of?
**10. Audience:** Who is the intended audience? (Think about the direct and indirect or implied audience.)
**11. Organization:** How does the author organize the essay and why/how is the organization important?
**12.**  **Theme/message:** Identify passages that suggest or connect to a universal truth, lesson, or statement.

**Annotation Practice Exercise: FICTION**

**“The Birthday Party” By: Katharine Brush**

**They were a couple in their late thirties, and they looked unmistakably married.**

**They sat on the banquette opposite us in a little narrow restaurant, having dinner. The**

**man had a round, self-satisfied face, with glasses on it; the woman was fadingly pretty, in**

**a big hat.**

**There was nothing conspicuous about them, nothing particularly noticeable, until**

**the end of their meal, when it suddenly became obvious that this was an Occasion—in**

**fact, the husband’s birthday, and the wife had planned a little surprise for him.**

**It arrived, in the form of a small but glossy birthday cake, with one pink candle**

**burning in the center. The headwaiter brought it in and placed it before the husband, and**

**meanwhile the violin-and-piano orchestra played “Happy Birthday to You,” and the wife**

**beamed with shy pride over her little surprise, and such few people as there were in the**

**restaurant tried to help out with a pattering of applause. It became clear at once that help**

**was needed, because the husband was not pleased. Instead, he was hotly embarrassed,**

**and indignant at his wife for embarrassing him.**

**You looked at him and you saw this and you thought, “Oh, now, don’t be like**

**that!” But he was like that, and as soon as the little cake had been deposited on the table,**

**and the orchestra had finished the birthday piece, and the general attention had shifted**

**from the man and the woman, I saw him say something to her under his breath—some**

**punishing thing, quick and curt and unkind. I couldn’t bear to look at the woman then, so**

**I stared at my plate and waited for quite a long time. Not long enough, though. She was**

**still crying when I finally glanced over there again. Crying quietly and heartbrokenly and**

**hopelessly, all to herself, under the gay big brim of her best hat.**

**Annotation Practice Exercise: NON-FICTION**