

HOW TO DO A CLOSE READING & MARK THE TEXT

OBJECTIVES: Demonstrate an understanding of discourse, i.e., awareness of audience and purpose. Use systematic strategies to organize and record information.

READING:

1. Skim the text
 - Read the title and sub headings; try to get an understanding of its meaning
 - Read words that are boldface, italicized, underlined, "set in quotations," or set apart from the text in some way. Read the first and last sentence of every paragraph
 - Notice and mark unfamiliar vocabulary—then look it up and define in the margins
2. Read the text (SUMMARIZE & ANALYZE)
 - **WHAT IS THE AUTHOR SAYING & DOING?** Get an overall sense of the meaning and main argument. Chunk similar ideas together--What function does each paragraph serve? Summarize paragraphs. What rhetorical devices does the author use to convince the reader of his/her point? (repetition, parallelism, word inversion, listing, etc.) What evidence does the author use to support the point? What is the author's tone, mood, attitude about the subject?
 - **WHAT DOES IT MEAN & WHY DOES IT MATTER?** Analyze the content. Pose questions. Define unfamiliar words. Explain why you agree or disagree with a statement from the author, a source, etc. What relevance does it have to the topic. Comment on the sources used—are they reliable? Biased? Etc. **THIS IS WHERE YOU COMMENT FROM YOUR OWN MIND ABOUT THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE ARTICLE.**

MARKING THE TEXT:

1. Circle unfamiliar vocabulary & underline key claims, phrases, etc.
 - Try to understand the vocabulary in context first, then, get a dictionary and get to work!
 - Get a thorough understanding of the allusions, or cultural literacy references, (a Herculean feat, an Enron scam, the tragedy of 911, etc.) Unless you understand the cultural references or references to history, you may not have a complete understanding of the text.
2. Good critical reading entails keeping three academic questions in mind at once:
 - **Summarizing questions:** "What exactly, am I being told?"
This article tells me I'm influenced, at least a little bit by what I see--whether I like it or not. Perhaps I should be more careful what I watch.
 - **Synthesizing questions:** "How does what I'm being told relate to other things I know or have been told?"
I do remember two of my junior high school friends each cutting her hair into a "Dorothy Hamill" for almost a year after the Olympics were broadcasted into our homes each night!
 - **Critiquing questions:** "Should I, in the end, believe what I'm being told? WHY OR WHY NOT?"
Is it also true for me? Yes, I think it is--after seeing the movie JAWS, I won't even think about kayaking in the ocean as an adult.
3. Mark it Up! Keep in mind the three academic questions above as you mark the text
 - On the **RIGHT MARGIN**—tell me what the author is saying—**SUMMARY**, define unfamiliar words, write key words and phrases to help you remember the main claims of each paragraph.
 - On the **LEFT MARGIN**—tell me what the author is doing—**ANALYSIS**, dig deeper, (author is describing, illustrating, arguing, etc.)ask questions, argue with the author, agree with the author, discuss ideas as they relate to your experiences, etc.
 - Underline unusual items or items that repeat
 - Underline quotes that grab you
 - Identify and label literary devices and persuasive techniques used by the author, etc.
 - **INTERACT WITH WHAT YOU READ AS THOUGH YOU ARE TALKING TO THE AUTHOR!**

BE A CODE BREAKING, MEANING MAKING READER OF EVERYTHING YOU READ!!!

ANNOTATING THE TEXT MODEL

DIRECTIONS: Use the model below to practice annotating your text thoroughly for both comprehension and analysis of the text.

What NBA stars and Occupy Wall Street protesters have in common

Paul Frymer and Dorian T. Warren, *Washington Post*, October 28, 2011

Saying/Doing

Contrasts LeBron James with the 99%

LeBron James has little in common with the 99%

Compares NBA players to the 99%

LeBron is like the 99% because he is controlled by an owner

Explains the issues between NBA players and owners

Players are accusing the owners of shady business

Conflicts over revenue split

Demonstrates how unions SHOULD give them power.

Unlike 88% of the population, players are protected by contracts through union representation and have the tools to resolve this conflict.

- 1 LeBron James is as far as you can get from the 99 percent.
- 2 The NBA superstar is paid more than \$16 million a year as a forward for the Miami Heat and has a \$90 million contract with Nike. After his team lost the NBA finals to Dallas in June, he told griping fans to go back to the humdrum reality of “the real world,” while he retreated to his recently purchased \$9 million home in South Beach.
- 3 So James may seem to share nothing with the 99 percent — in Occupy Wall Street’s terms, the vast majority of American workers, who suffer in a culture of unabashed greed that has created a historic gulf of inequality between the richest Americans and everyone else.
- 4 But he and the other NBA players have something important in common with the 99 percent. James is an employee of the Miami Heat. Despite his recent tweet hinting that he will try to join the National Football League if the NBA lockout continues, he finds himself, like most Americans, beholden to the owners and managers who control his workplace and industry. If the owners want to lock out the workers, or leave the country in search of greater profits, he — like American workers whose jobs have disappeared overseas — is left with few options. He is beholden to team owners who are not always upfront about their revenue and profits, and who are claiming a right to make more money without equitably sharing it with the workers who make the huge windfalls possible.
- 5 In the split between NBA players and owners, the players are voicing frustrations that may seem awfully similar to what the Occupy Wall Street protesters are saying. The players are accusing the owners — who keep recording yearly profits as a group while claiming hardship and the need for belt-tightening — of playing by different rules; avoiding public scrutiny; and benefiting from a range of insider deals, bailouts and protections without sharing the profits.
- 6 At issue in this dispute is whether the league can impose a tighter salary cap on the teams, which would effectively lower the salaries of the players. The other major conflict is over how “basketball-related income” — which includes revenue from the sale of tickets, parking, food at concession stands, player jerseys and broadcast rights — will be split between players and owners. Until now, players got a slight majority of this revenue. This made sense, since it was superstars such as Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, and now Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, who brought the league to new heights in popularity and profits. The owners, however, say it is unsustainable to maintain high salaries and existing profit margins. They want a 50-50 split of the basketball-related income.
- 7 The players have remained united and responded angrily to NBA Commissioner David Stern’s initial threats of cancelling the season. Dwyane Wade, James’s teammate and one of the league’s biggest stars, yelled at the commissioner in a heated meeting, saying: “You’re not pointing your finger at me. I’m not your child.” Steve Nash, two-time NBA most valuable player, questioned the owners’ representation of their finances, tweeting, “Why are the owners unwilling to negotiate in good faith?”
- 8 Despite some optimism Thursday, Stern late on Friday canceled all games through Nov. 30. Going into the weekend, talks remained stalled around the issue of sharing basketball-related income.
- 9 One of the reasons NBA players should ultimately resolve this conflict — and have greater influence than most workers in such a dispute — is that they are, unlike 88 percent of their fellow Americans, members of a labor union. This gives them certain contractual rights such as job security, health and retirement benefits, and a significant voice in the way their company is run.
- 10 The nation’s historic rise in income inequality and insecurity has been matched by a decline in union membership. Half a century ago, roughly one in three American workers was a union member, whereas today union membership has dropped to just 7 percent in the private sector and less than 12 percent overall, the lowest in 70 years. For workers, this decline can mean the absence of job security or benefits, as well as falling wages. In 2010, union members made on average \$10,000 a year more than non-union workers, and economists have shown that even the prospect of unionization has led to rising wages in different industries.

Mean/Matter

LeBron is part of the wealthy 1% those involved in Occupy Wall Street are fighting against.

NBA players are restricted by what their owners demand, decide, share, etc. There is no transparency or equity. Owners are like corporations!

Game of GREED!!!

Owners want as much of the profit as possible while the players are doing all the hard labor, dealing with injuries, etc.

Unions help create job security, provide health benefits and give workers a voice as employees. Why don't players resolve this conflict in negotiations?

The tools are at their disposal!!! Not everyone in America has this power!