# **Mark-up Assignment: The Savvy Reader Practice**

## Purpose

The object is to fill the empty space of the margins with your thoughts and questions to the text. By reading sympathetically (reading to understand what the writer is saying) and critically (reading to analyze and critique what the writer is saying), you are reading mindfully and creatively. You are finding those passages that *you* are drawn to, asking questions that *you* have, and beginning to develop *your* reaction, response, and ideas about a topic or issue. It’s a useful tool in the “getting started” phase of the writing process. Learning how to read effectively will be an invaluable skill in your college career and beyond because it means engaging in a task actively rather than passively.

## Task

Choose 1-2 paragraphs from READING X to fully annotate. This passage should be one that interests you, i.e. seems important, confusing, and/or prompted agreement, disagreement, or questions for you.

**Circle** any word you think is crucial for the passage, including ones you cannot easily define.

**Underline** phrases or images you think crucial for the meaning of the passage/essay.

Put a **bracket** around ideas or assertions you find puzzling or questionable.

Then **write notes around the margins** of the passage defining these terms, identifying the important ideas, or raising questions with the bracketed phrases. **For each item you have circled, underlined, or bracketed, there should be a margin note.** For this assignment, your margin notes should be substantive: they should meaty statements and full questions.

## Format

Photocopy or clear, legible photograph of paragraphs with your annotations or type up the paragraphs and annotate.