

Annotate Without Fear!

As you read any text, your goal is to *produce* information instead of merely absorbing it or accepting it. With your feisty pen in your hand, seek continually to make connections and ask questions as you read.

Step One: Pick a good pen. Personally, I use smooth blue ballpoint pens only. Bic works pretty well.

Step Two: Fill up the margins with you, you, you. Consider yourself as important as (if not more important than) the author of the text you're reading.

Here are some ideas for types of connections to make (these are just to get you started—you do not need to limit yourself to them):

Text-to-self (T-S): Connections between the text and your life

- Ex: Anderton's paranoia reminds me of my own concerns about my students growing too reliant on technology.

Text-to-text (T-T): Connections between the text and any other novel, story, film, poem, song, etc.

- Ex: The society in *Minority Report* seems empty, shallow and corrupt like the society in *Fahrenheit 451*.

Text-to-world (T-W): Connections between the text and the real world

- Ex: The interactive billboards and signs at the Gap in *Minority Report* reflect the increasingly personalized approach that Amazon.com and other web companies are taking.

