**Close Reading Guidelines**

**Before Reading:**

1. Number each paragraph or section
2. Separate reading into smaller sections

**During *First* Reading:**

1. Underline unfamiliar or confusing words and phrases
2. **In the LEFT Margin:** Summarize each text section in your own words

**During *Second* Reading:**

1. **In the RIGHT Margin:** Annotate the text. This means having a conversation with the text! (See Chart Below)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How to Annotate** | |
| **Ask questions about the topic** | A question I have is…  How did…  Why did…  Why would…  Who is…  Has this ever...  I am not sure why…  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is confusing |
| **Comment on why the author may have written the text** | I think the author uses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because  Perhaps the author wrote this because... |
| **Make connections to your own experiences** | This makes me think of…  This reminds me of…  If this was me, I would…  This is interesting because... |
| **Make observations, inferences, or predictions** | I predict…  Because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I can see that…  I notice that... |
| **Comment on whether you agree or disagree on the topic** | I agree with...because…  I disagree with...because... |

**Written Response**

Directions: Use the guidelines below to the craft a well-written response the the Article of the Week. Your response should be at least 250 words.

1. **Write a relevant title, properly capitalized**
2. **Accurately cite the main idea or argument of the article.**
3. **Accurately include, explain, and respond to at least one quote from the article.**
4. **Present your own opinion of the topic and explain why you have that opinion.**
5. **Write a concluding sentence that sums up the response.**
6. **At least 250 words. At least 2 paragraphs.**
7. **Neat, legible, and free of major errors.**
8. **Written on a loose leaf paper or typed.**

**Self-Edit Checklist**

*Directions: Before handing in your weekly assignment, complete the checklist below to review your work. Turn in your best effort!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I have read through my response, correcting any words that sound awkward or redundant. |  |
| I have led into and smoothly blended at least one quote from the article. |  |
| I have properly cited the quote, using parenthetical citation. |  |
| I have capitalized and properly formatted the article title. |  |
| I have used appropriate transitions in my response. |  |
| My paragraph ends with a concluding sentence that sums things up. |  |
| My response is at least 250 words. I have written the word count on the top right corner of the page. |  |
| I have capitalized the first word of every sentence. |  |
| Each sentence is a complete thought. NO SENTENCE FRAGMENTS. |  |
| Sentences end in appropriate punctuation. |  |

**Grading Rubric**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| 5  Excellent effort.  Mature thinking is obvious  Several margin notes showing interaction to the text  Student identifies and defines unknown words  Margin notes show that the student summarizes the text, ask questions, and makes observations.  Makes strong personal connections to the text. | 5  Exceeds expectations  No errors - proofed and accurate  Goes beyond the writing template to create a personalized, meaningful response.  Accurate citations |
| 4 Strong effort.  Several margin notes showing interaction to the text  Student identifies unknown words  Margin notes show that the student summarizes the text, ask questions, and makes observations.  Makes some personal connections to the text. | 4 Strong effort.  Meets assignment requirements.  Neat and legible writing.  Uses the Writing Template effectively. |
| 3 Adequate effort  Identifies unknown words.  Uses some strategies to read closely, but struggles to dig deeper. | 3 Adequate effort  Legible writing with few minor mistakes  Meets most assignment requirements  Does not use the Writing Template completely or accurately. |
| 2 Some effort.  Margin notes and text interaction is basic.  Notes do not demonstrate deeper thinking.  Attempts close reading strategies, but is inaccurate. | 2 Some effort  Does not meet most requirements  Does not use the template accurately or at all.  Work is carelessly written and legible. |
| 0-1 Little to no effort displayed.  Minimal, basic margin notes  Does not use close reading strategies. | 0-1 Little to no effort displayed.  Does not complete the assignment |