

Previewing and Predicting Activity

Before you read, you will want to engage in the following prereading exercises and answer all relevant questions. Previewing a text and making predictions before you read will help you access valuable prior knowledge and help you make critical connections to the ideas in the text.

1) **Survey the text**, noting all available reading aids (bold words, footnotes, chapter summaries, visuals, etc.) and get a feel for the overall length of the text. What reading aids, if any, are available? What is the overall length of the text? How is the text structured? Are there headings and subheadings?

2) **Scan the title (and/or subtitles) and make a prediction** about the topic. What will this text be about? What do you know about the topic?

3) **Read the first and last paragraphs.** What new information did you learn from reading the first and last paragraphs? Was your first prediction accurate?

4) **Examine the author and publication information.** Who is the author? What are his or her professional and academic experiences? When was the text published? What do we know about the publisher? What is your final prediction?

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Writing in the Margins Guide

"Writing in the Margins" makes transparent six ways competent readers process and react to ideas in texts. The table below details how to use this skill. The work that readers do in the margins depends on what the text says and what the text does. Use the questions below to help you write ideas in the margins.

	Skill Description	Guiding Questions
Clarify	Clarify complex ideas presented in a text by analyzing and interpreting information while making inferences when necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the author saying? • What does the author mean? • What do I know so far?
Summarize	Briefly summarize paragraphs. This is a good way to keep track of essential information while condensing lengthier passages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is this section about? • What information is essential? • What's most important? • What's the main idea?
Connect	Make connections within the text, to your own life and to the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have I experienced this? • How does this relate to that? • Can I relate to the ideas? • Who else believes this?
Respond	Respond to ideas in the text as you read. Your responses can be personal or analytical in nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do I feel while reading? • What is my personal reaction? • Do I agree or disagree? • Do I believe the author?
Illustrate	Visualize what the author is saying and draw an illustration in the margin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I see while reading? • What pictures come to mind? • Can I visualize what the author is saying?
Question	Question both the ideas in the text and your own understanding of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I want to know? • What else do I need to know? • What do I understand so far? • What is my reading purpose?

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