







BASIC SKILLS ASSN. #1: ANNOTATION & SUMMARY

Annotation is the act of “talking” to the text as you read it. Though you may not be speaking out loud, you will be writing/taking notes as you read. Follow the guidelines below for the following assignment.

1. Underline or highlight any unfamiliar words.
2. Underline or circle main ideas the author presents. Also note supporting details with similar marks.
3. Use numbers to indicate steps in a process, lists, important details, etc.
4. If a something in the text causes you to ask a question, make a note of it in the margin.
5. If something in the text causes you to have a comment, make a note of it in the margin.
6. Finally, create your own *consistent* method of symbols to use while annotating. See examples below.

	Use arrows to point out important ideas, main points, or to connect ideas together		To show surprise or disagreement
	To indicate a question		To indicate a series or a list
	Use stars to highlight important points	WARNING: You must write down questions and comments as you go along. DO NOT simple rely on your symbols to help you remember.	
			

Annotation or “talking” to yourself as you read is helpful strategy to keep yourself engaged while reading. It gives you a purpose even when reading something that is not very interesting to you. If you notice that you haven’t made notes while in the midst of a text, this is a good indication that you haven’t been giving the reading your full attention and that you need to go back and re-read.

Read the following paragraphs taken from **“How it Affects Your Health”** by **Christine Gorman**. First annotate using the guidelines above- using margins and space between lines. Then use your annotations to write a summary of the most important ideas presented in the article on (Use page 3). Staple both page 2 and 3 together and turn in for grading.

It is fair to say that global warming is going to lead to a rise in human sickness and death. But what form they will take is difficult to say. We can be pretty sure that as average temperatures climb, there will be more frequent and longer heat waves of the sort that contributed to the death of at least 20,000 Europeans in August 2003. Other predictions are more tenuous. For example, rising temperatures could- if rainfall and other conditions are right-result in larger mosquito populations at higher elevations in the tropics, which could in turn contribute to the spread of malaria, dengue and other insect-borne infections.

Early indications are not encouraging. The World Health Organization (WHO) believes that even the modest increases in average temperature that have occurred since the 1970's have begun to take a toll. Climate change is responsible for at least 150,000 extra deaths a year- a figure that will double by 2030, according to WHO's conservative estimate.

As with so many public-health issues, a disproportionate part of the burden appears to be falling on the poorest of the poor. That doesn't mean, however, that the comparatively wealthy – who account for more than their share of greenhouse gas emissions- will escape harm.

(Gorman, Christine. “How it Affects Your Health”. Time 3 April 2006: 44-45)

