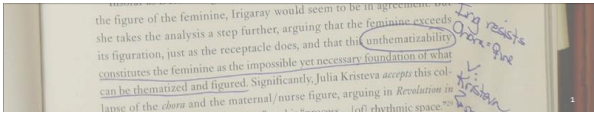


READING THEORY

Some Tips



1. ISOLATE KEY TERMS

- LOOK FOR
 - Repeated terms
 - Terms that come with definitions
 - Terms that set the ground for other terms
- HIGHLIGHT or CIRCLE key terms as you read
- WRITE out a definition in your own words;

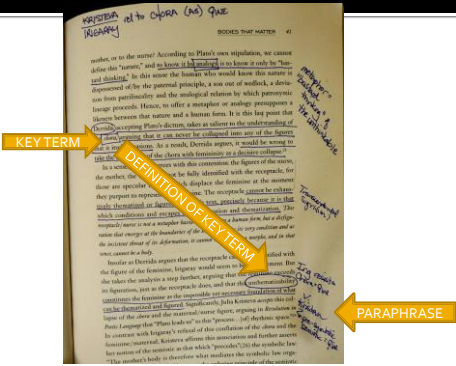
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2. HIGHLIGHT KEY IDEAS

- LOOK FOR
 - Topic sentences
 - Summing sentences
 (these will usually be found at the beginnings and ends of paragraphs)
- UNDERLINE these key sentences
- WRITE OUT the key idea in your own words

3

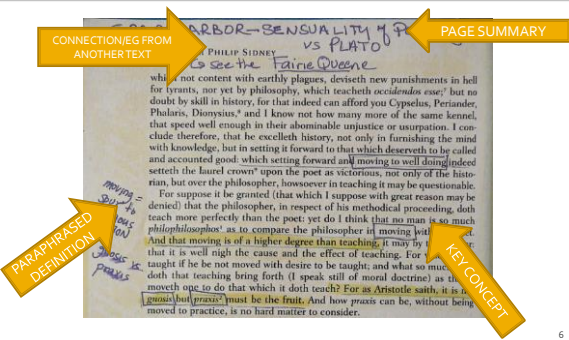
EG. HIGHLIGHT TERMS/CONCEPTS



3. INDEX

- WRITE key words in the MARGINS beside each paragraph
- SUMMARIZE each page with a phrase or sentence in the TOP MARGIN

EG. INDEXING



4. QUESTION

- MARK with ?? the places where you stumble.
- WRITE out your question in a COMPLETE SENTENCE to identify what SPECIFICALLY is the source of your confusion:
 - unfamiliar vocabulary?
 - unfamiliar expression or sentence structure?
 - a new concept?
 - a challenge to your accepted way of thinking?

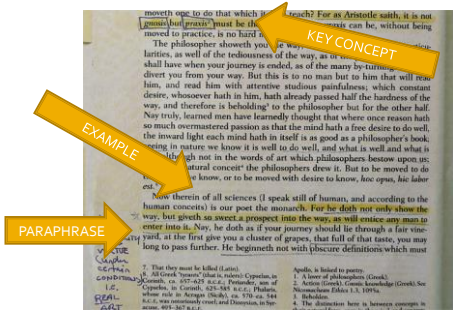
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5. CONCRETIZE WITH EXAMPLES

- LOOK elsewhere in the paragraph or in the essay for EXAMPLES or ILLUSTRATIONS (usually these will occur in the MIDDLE of paragraphs before summing sentences);
- ASK if these examples clarify or answer your question;
- DRAW an arrow → from your question ?? to the clarifying example

8

EG. CONCRETIZE WITH EXAMPLES



9

6. ABSTRACT/MAP

- WRITE a few sentences that ENCAPSULATE what you think is the main idea of the essay;
- MAP the essay using the INDEXING that you created in the margins to show the flow of the argument;
- LIST key terms and concepts;
- LINK these key terms to other texts that address them
 - Are they the same? Different?

10

A BRIEF MAP OF THE TEXTBOOK'S INTRODUCTION

- THEORY: exposes the "self-evident" to scrutiny;
- HISTORY OF THEORY: reveals constant debate and conversation about "self-evident" definitions of key ideas:
 - LITERATURE
 - INTERPRETATION

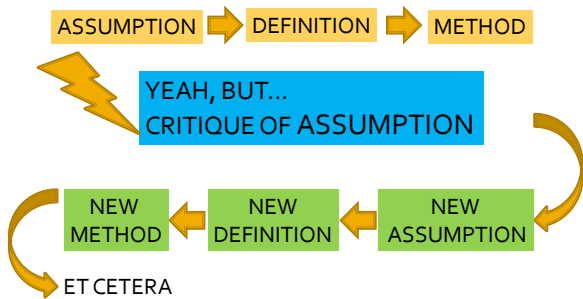
11

ILLUSTRATIONS:

- debate among NEW CRITICISM, FORMALISM, STRUCTURALISM, POST-STRUCTURALISM, and DISCOURSE THEORY
- Based on their varying emphasis on relationships among the following:
 - Work (text)
 - Universe
 - Artist
 - Audience
 - Society/conventions
- Key Figures mentions: Cleanth Brooks; M.H. Abrams (diagram); Michel Foucault.

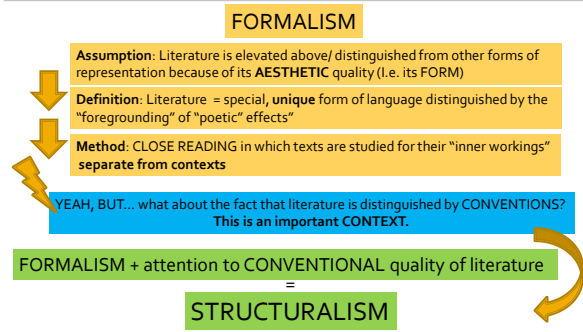
12

PATTERN DEMONSTRATED: HOW THEORIES "TALK TO EACH OTHER"



13

ILLUSTRATION of the PATTERN



14

EG. Map of Sidney's Model of Poetry



16
