**Critically Read and Annotate Your Source:**

In order to write effectively about a text, you need to thoroughly understand it. Careful, page-by-page annotations will help you capture the author’s most important ideas, and will allow you to easily go back and find key points without having to re-read the whole article. Be sure to make note of where authors state their thesis (main idea) in a text. Also make note of especially compelling quotations that you may want to use in your writing.