



Focused Notes

History Inquiry Journal



Marking the Text

1. Number the paragraphs.
2. **Circle** key terms and academic vocabulary (words used in history class).
3. Underline or **highlight** claims/main idea(s), evidence, details, other important information relevant (related) to the claims/main ideas.
4. **Box** words you don't know.
5. Take notes in the margin. Write down thoughts, questions, summaries of important ideas, etc.

Marking the Text

Primary Sources

1. Number the paragraphs.
2. **Circle** key terms and academic vocabulary (words used in history class).
3. Underline or **highlight** the information that will help you answer the questions (Read the questions 1st, so you know what to look for as you read the text).
4. **Box** words you don't know.
5. Take notes in the margin. Write down thoughts, questions, summaries of important ideas, etc.

Essential Question

1. Follow the instructions on the opening page for the chapter in your Inquiry Journal.
2. Write 3 questions you might need to answer to be able to answer the EQ for this chapter.
 - a. Do not use the examples provided in the Inquiry Journal.

Engage with the Text (Lesson Notes)

1. Go to the “Engage With the Text” page for the chapter and lesson you are working on.
2. Read the questions and look over the graphic organizers so you know what to look for as you work through the lesson.
3. Read through the text for this lesson and answer the questions as you go.
4. Your answers must be in complete sentences, except in charts/tables.
5. When you find a key term/vocabulary word in the text, write it down in the blue “My Notes” section on the left side.

Revisiting/Annotating Notes

Going back to annotate your notes is an important step in the Focused Note process. It helps it stick in your brain better!

1. Annotate your notes:

- Take notes/write questions in the margins.
- Circle any key terms you see in your answers.
- **Highlight** or underline important concepts and ideas.
- ! - next to things you think may be on a test.
- ? - next to things you have questions about or want to clarify.
- Use as many different **colors** as possible.

Be prepared to share your answers!

Guiding Questions

1. In the textbook find at least two Guiding Questions for this lesson.
2. Answer these questions in complete sentences in your Inquiry Journal.
 - a. You do not need to write the questions IF you restate the question in your answer. It needs to be obvious what the question was.

Be prepared to share your answers!

Essential Question (EQ) Summary

1. Go to the “Report Your Findings” page at the end of the chapter in your Inquiry Journal.
2. Answer the questions/fill out the tables.
3. Complete the “Connect to the Essential Question” portion at the end.
 - Use the space provided to write an EQ summary paragraph.
 - It does not need to be an essay, but you do need to RACE your answer.
 - Your summary must fully address the question. Use your notes and answers to the Guiding Questions.

Annotations and Guiding Questions

Annotate your notes:

- Take notes/write questions in the margins.
- Circle any key terms you see in your answers.
- **Highlight** or underline important concepts and ideas.
- ! - next to things you think may be on a test.
- ? - next to things you have questions about or want to clarify.
- Use as many different **colors** as possible.

Guiding Questions

- In the textbook find at least two Guiding Questions for this lesson.
- Answer these questions in complete sentences in your Inquiry Journal.
 - Restate the question in your answer.

Be prepared to share your answers!