

# Marking the Text: *Social Science*

This Strategy has three distinct marks:

1. **Number the paragraphs.** ① Before you read, take a moment and number the paragraphs in the section you are planning to read. Start with the number one and continue numbering sequentially until you reach the end of the text or reading assignment. Write the number near the paragraph indentation and circle the number; write it small enough so that you have room to write in the margin.
- ② As with page numbers, paragraph numbers will act as a reference so you can easily refer to specific sections of the text.

2. **Circle** key terms, cited authors, and other essential words or numbers.

You might circle...

- key concepts
- lesson-based content vocabulary
- concept-based vocabulary
- words that signal relationships (e.g. *This led to...* or *As a result...*)
- names of people
- names of historical events
- dates
- numbers

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Underline** the author's claims and other information relevant to the reading purpose.

While reading informational texts (i.e. textbooks, reference books, articles, or journals), read carefully to identify information that is relevant to the reading task. Relevant information might include:

- central claims
- evidence
- details relating to a theology, philosophy, or ideology
- facts about a person, place, thing, or idea
- descriptions of a person, place, thing, or idea
- cause and effect relationships

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some strategies to help students identify essential information in the reading:

- Read the introduction to the primary or secondary source.
- Scan the text for visuals, vocabulary, comprehension questions, or other reading aids.
- Review your notes for key concepts.
- Preview chapter or unit reviews.

*Note: If you are not working with consumables, consider photocopying sections of a text that are essential to writing assignments, course content, exams, or other class activities.*