

Annotating an Essay or Book

Shared Traits of Essays & Books:

- Thesis-Oriented
- Common Structure (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)

Stated Thesis =

Thesis that is explicitly stated in the text

Three Strategies for Discovering the Implied Thesis

Word or Phrase + Key Sentence = THESIS

Key Sentence + Key Sentence = THESIS

Summarize important ideas into a one-sentence thesis statement

Implied Thesis =

A thesis that is not directly stated

What to look for in an essay or book:

Find these 5 things:

1. Find the stated thesis
2. Find the implied thesis
3. Identify topic sentences
4. Identify key supporting details
5. Identify transitional words and phrases



Supporting Details May Include:

Facts



Figures & Statistics



Quotations or Paraphrases



Summaries



Personal Experiences



Types of Transitional Words & Phrases:

- Example
 - (e.g. for example, for instance)
- Time or Sequence
 - (e.g. first, second)
- Comparison
 - (e.g. however, on the other hand)
- Concession
 - (e.g. admittedly, granted)
- Addition
 - (e.g. furthermore, in addition)
- Cause and Effect
 - (e.g. as a result, consequently)
- Conclusion
 - (e.g. therefore, in conclusion)
- Summary
 - (e.g. in summary, in other words)

Clues to help you find the topic sentence:

1. Look for a title or heading that indicates the topic
2. Look for a word, name, or phrase in the paragraph that appears in special print
3. Look for a word, name, or phrase that is repeated throughout the paragraph
4. Look for a word, name, or phrase referred to through the paragraph by pronouns or other words