

Mark Your Books

www.utexas.edu/student/utlc

WHY?

Marking your books is important because:

- you decide what's important and how ideas are related, a process that teaches you to read analytically.
- you test your understanding by putting ideas into your own words.
- you concentrate better because you read actively rather than passively.
- you create an effective **review** tool. Use markings to trigger recall; before a test, glance at your notes to see how much you can remember.

WARNING

Don't use underlining as an escape tactic to delay the inevitable work of learning. If you can't concentrate, take a break, then come back ready to study.

WHEN?

Annotate your book **after** you've read part of it. Only after reading can you decide what's important. Mark after reading a few paragraphs if the material is dense with detail you need to remember, or after a section or a chapter, as you judge best.

HOW?

- **Actively** -- use your margins to summarize key ideas in a few words, outline a passage, write comments to yourself. Make connections with lectures or other readings. Get involved.
- **Economically** -- underline as little as possible. Make your markings concise and relevant to content. Underline key phrases (subjects, verbs, etc.), and occasionally whole sentences, if needed. It helps to ask yourself, "What will this page look like a month from now, when I'm reviewing for a test?"
- **Consistently** -- be sure that you locate all significant ideas, details, etc. Enumerating them helps to remember. Use various marks—brackets, circles, etc.—consistently (for instance, you may choose to circle all new terms).

(over)

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All significant ideas are noted.

Economical markings enable quick review.

ROME'S CULTURAL LEGACY (5)

1. *preserve G.K. cult.*
2. *professions*
3. *Latin*
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
4. *thought (shaped by language)*
5. *e.g. of Roman peace*

The Romans have left us a great deal. It is broadly true that in the arts, in literature, and in philosophy they were imitators of the Greeks rather than originators. The preserved much of what the Greeks had done. In law, in both civil and military engineering, and in architecture what they did was never wholly lost to their European successors. Serving as the medium for all formal culture in the European west, their language remained for over a thousand years after the fall of the empire. Above all it remained the lingua franca for the Roman Catholic Church. Until only yesterday, Latin was an inescapable part of all higher education in the European west. It is today, embedded in all western tongues, even in German, and most certainly in English, as the carrier of most of our cultural ideas. We think as we do, in part at least, because of the way Caesar, Cicero, and thousands of forgotten Romans thought. And, as heirs of four hundred years of nationalistic and religious wars, we can never quite get the example of the Roman Peace out of our minds.

really need to learn latin?!

Different marks for different purposes.

Margins used for summaries, outlines, comments

