

THE LITERACY DEN

THE LITERACY NEWSLETTER OF MINOR HIGH SCHOOL



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet **Mrs. Janelle Sharp**! Mrs. Sharp teaches English 9 (General and Advanced) and English 10 at Minor High. During a recent classroom visit, she demonstrated proficient use of a close reading strategy. She was teaching poetry and wanted students to annotate to engage with the text and to increase their understanding of the poems. She utilized the annotation strategy well. When asked about the importance of using the annotation strategy, Mrs. Sharp used herself as an example. She stated that "I started using annotation strategies in college, and they helped me to stay focused on the material. From my experience, I knew that I could have success with my students by using annotation." When asked about the importance of annotating in the blended environment, Mrs. Sharp mentioned that "it's important to see students' thinking now more than ever. Allowing them to annotate helps them show their thinking in a tangible manner."

KEY ARTICLE

Annotation is a sure way to allow students to show their thinking, to increase their focus on text, and to help with comprehension of complex texts. Here is an article that provides ideas and web-based tools on allowing students to annotate virtually entitled [Tools for Social Annotation](#) (click title).



POWER STRATEGIES

There are many strategies that teachers can utilize to allow students to practice and strengthen their close reading skills while encouraging engagement and comprehension. Here are two (click links):

1. [Coding the Text](#)
2. [Think Notes](#) (video)

DR. NELSON'S ADVICE

Many people believe that close reading as a skill is only beneficial for upper elementary and middle school students but not necessarily high school students. Close reading, however, is important for this age group as well. As educators we are all charged with preparing students for college and career. This preparation does encompass helping students to hone literacy skills. Close reading, allows students to delve deeper into a text by analyzing, interpreting, and inferring. Annotation is a close reading strategy that encompasses all of those literacy skills and more. Happy annotating!!