

## 1) How to use Modern Language Association (MLA) format for every essay/writing (MLA formatting information can be found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>)

Basics=

- format your name etc. in the upper LEFT corner of your papers
- double space all typed papers,
- use a basic font (no fancy colors, images or font styles, and always use size 12 font).
- if you must hand write, ALWAYS USE A BLACK OR BLUE PEN!! (Pencil is unacceptable).

Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23 August 2016 (*Yep, that's how you write it!*)

This information goes in the upper LEFT corner of the first page of any writing/essay you turn in. (Anything after the first page just gets your last name and a page number).

## 2) How to do a Close Reading (or Annotation)

*Close Reading is purposefully reading a text several times in order to analyze and gain a deep understanding of the text.*



**MARK UP: Key Ideas**

**MARK UP: Examples** (that support the Big Idea)

**UNDERLINE= Data** (like important dates, names, numbers, places)

**CIRCLE & FIND DEFINITIONS FOR= Vocabulary**

**ASK QUESTIONS!**

**MAKE CONNECTIONS!**

- **1st Reading: Key Ideas and Details=** “Scrape the surface;” connect to background knowledge, focus on key ideas. (Read through, and consider key message).
- **2nd Reading: Craft and Structure=** “Dig deeper;” focus on text features like what figurative language is used, and content vocabulary, and organizational patterns (like how the lines are broken up, or how the author uses punctuation).
- **3rd Reading: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas=** “Processing the treasure;” Synthesize and analyze information (think about what the author’s point is, consider how it relates to my life, compare it to other texts) and record your thinking in notes/graphic organizer/post-it notes etc.

**Use the space between lines, and the margins to close read the text. While there may not be new vocabulary, there is some metaphorical language that you should mark and interpret. Write personal connections down, (even if it's sad/happy faces). Note important parts that help you understand the main idea, and just CONVERSE with the text. At the bottom, write down what the BIG IDEA is, in your opinion.**

"I've Learned" by Maya Angelou

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life  
does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles  
these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas  
tree lights.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll  
miss them when they're gone from your life.

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both  
hands; you need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually  
make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone.

People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you  
did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Name (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All great authors are great readers, and mimickers, of other great authors. Your homework is to mimic Maya Angelou's poem "I've Learned" and produce your own poetic work by finishing off these opening sentences.

"I've Learned" by \_\_\_\_\_

I've learned that no matter what happens...

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these

three things: ...

I've learned that...

I've learned that...

I've learned that life...

I've learned that you shouldn't... (Create a metaphor for this one, like she did).

I've learned that whenever I...

I've learned that...

I've learned that every day you should...

People love...

I've learned that I...

I've learned that people will...