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English 110

Professor Rodwell

Self-Reflection 5

The single most helpful thing I have done to improve my writing process was to annotate. When reading, whether instructed assignments or browsing articles, I have learned to annotate the main ideas, quotes, and paragraphs of specific notes I have found interesting in the reading. I make a note on paper (not digitally because I tend to forget about that notation) so I can physically see the point or idea that developed through annotating the word. In my annotations I break down the text to how I may understand, in other words, I write it how best I can understand and remember it. This breakdown of what appears to be heavy articulative writing can now be understood by myself and peers alike.

One aspect of the course I found difficult was when I attempted to write my exploratory essay. I was reading a lot of academic journals that matched my search but very few were hitting the point I wanted to explore. I later learned that to alleviate the issue of scrolling through countless writing, I can now read the abstract. The abstract is a summary of the article, what the author seems to explore, and often includes the finding. This method proved useful since now I browse the abstract to see if it's fitting to my research, saving time and energy while getting to the deep reading of articles that match my theme.