Nonfiction Signposts

Notice and Note Nonfiction Close Reading Strategies:
Student Notes to Create Personal Study Guide Booklets
Directions to Create Your Study Guide Booklet:

- Select four pieces of blank white or colored paper.
- As a group, fold the four pieces of paper together in half, and staple the spine.
- Label the front of your booklet:
  - Nonfiction Signposts
  - Notice and Note Close Reading Strategies Study Guide
  - By...(insert your first and last name here)
- Open your booklet and, starting on the right-hand page, number each page in the bottom corner until you get to the back cover.
- Page 1 should be titled as your Table of Contents:
  - 2-3 Three Guiding Questions for Exploring Nonfiction Sources
  - 4-5 Contrasts and Contradictions
  - 6-7 Absolute and Extreme Language
  - 8-9 Numbers and Stats
  - 10-11 Quoted Words
  - 12-13 Word Gap
- Next, go through your booklet and write down your notes (see remaining slideshow) for each Nonfiction Signpost.
- Save slides 6 and 8 (words that signals C&C and A&EL) for the last two pages, if you have room. You can add them to your Table of Contents later, if you so choose.
3 Guiding Questions for Exploring Nonfiction Sources

1. **What surprised me?**
   - I was shocked about...I was surprised when...I never thought...I couldn’t believe...Really??

2. **What does the author think I already know?**
   - *What CONFUSED you?*

3. **What changed, challenged, or confirmed what I already know?**
   - *And/or...what in the source do YOU want to challenge?*
Nonfiction Close Reading Signposts

- Contrasts and Contradictions
- Absolute and Extreme Language
- Numbers and Stats
- Quoted Words
- Word Gap
When you are reading and you notice...

- the author shows you how things/people/ideas contrast or contradict one another, or shows you something that contrasts or contradicts what you already know, you need to stop and ask yourself:

  What is the difference and why does it matter?

- Also consider: Why did the author point out this contrast/contradiction? Does this reveal a bias or new knowledge?

- The answer will help you see details that show you the main idea, compare and contrast, understand the author’s purpose, infer, make a generalization, notice cause and effect.
SOME Words that Signal a Contrast or Contradiction... *(include on last pages of your booklet?)*

- Alternatively
- By contrast
- However
- Nonetheless
- Otherwise
- Then again
- However
- Unlike
- Although
- Different from
- Instead
- On the other hand
- Still
- Yet
**Absolute and Extreme Language** (NF text)

*When you are reading and you notice…*

- the author uses language that seems to exaggerate, forbid doubts or questioning, etc., stop and ask yourself:
  
  Why did the author say it like that?

- *Also consider: What does this reveal about the author’s biases or purpose?*

- The answers will tell you something about the author’s point-of-view and purpose. Or, you might realize the author is exaggerating to make you think a certain way.
SOME (not all) Words that Signal Extreme or Absolute Language... *(include on last pages of your booklet?)*

- Every (everyone)
- All
- Always
- Indisputably
- Unarguably
- Never
- None
- Totally
- Irreversible
- Unquestionably
- Hardest
- Meanest
- Perfectly
- Completely
- Absolutely
- Unconditionally
- Entirely
- Exclusively
Numbers and Stats (NF text)

When you are reading and you notice...

- specific numbers, number words or amounts, statistical information, etc., stop and ask yourself:
  
  “Why did the author use these numbers/amounts?” and “What do the numbers help me see?”

- Also consider: What purpose do these numbers serve in this context? Do these numbers help prove a point?

- The answers might help you come to a conclusion, make a comparison, see the details, infer, find facts, or recognize evidence.
Quoted Words (NF text)

When you are reading and you notice...

- the author quoted a Voice of Authority, a Personal Perspective, or cited Other’s Words, stop and ask yourself:

  “Why did the author quote or cite this person?”

- Also consider: What is this person’s perspective? What are the qualifications of this person?

- The answers will help you think about the author’s point-of-view, purpose, bias, or conclusions. Or these words will give a perspective, facts and opinions, or a generalization.
When you are reading and you notice:

- the author uses a word or phrase you don’t know, stop and ask yourself:
  
  “Do I know this word from someplace else?” OR “Does this seem like technical talk for experts of this topic?” OR “Can I find clues in the sentence to help me understand the word?”

The answers will help you decide if you need to look the word up, or keep reading for more information.