



## Shaping Your Argument Through Annotation

*The Synthesis Question intimidates like no other. It throws 6 to 8 sources at you; it expects you to read articles, look at statistics, balance different arguments, know where the information comes from, and argue a completely foreign topic relates to the world at large. How do you do this? Below you will find a device that may help you to organize your thoughts and write an effective essay:*

*These notations help to classify the different topics in an essay. As you read, think about the following concepts, and annotate your margins with the following, brief notations. Essentially, the top four issues, will relate to any synthesis question you might encounter*

**\$** - Money: does issue deal with funding, jobs, financial security?

**S** - Safety Health: does the issue deal with public well being?

**E** - Ethics: does the issue deal with values, beliefs?

**E** - Environment: does the issue deal with natural, political, social conditions

*Secondly, AP (if you wish to be successful) almost demand a writer be able to connect the material to the larger world (called "global perspective"). Below, you will find the three primary places you can address the cause and effect relationship of the subject on the rest of the world*

**I** - International Impact - How does the issue relate to places outside your own community?

**T** - Technology - How does the issue touch on the tools that we use within our lives?

**T** - Time - How does this issue relate/impact to time (saving it, losing it) or the time and place we live?

*When you return to your notes, you will have some annotations that allow you to classify and determine whether you are going to use the information as your argument, your counter-argument, or your rebuttal.*