

# **DURING**

## **Mark the Text**

### ***Mindful Coding***

**PURPOSE:** To capture your thinking for immediate or later reflection. To help you learn deeply, bringing you directly into the construction of the text’s meaning and your own ideas as inspired by the text.

**WHY DO THIS:** It makes the text yours. It opens possibilities for higher order thinking, wondering, exploring, and discovering; it increases the depth of your engagement with the text and helps you become a scholar.

**KNOW THIS:** The payoff for your effort can be great. You do not have to do *Mindful Coding* for the entire text, just for those parts deserving a close, careful reading. Furthermore, it is faster than more traditional forms of notetaking, usually more effective, and easier to use later.

#### **HOW to do *Mindful Coding*:**

1. Set guiding purpose(s) for an in-depth reading of a text or part.
2. Create codes to help you attain your purpose(s) such as *?*, *T*, *!!*, *OC*, *\**, *PI*—whatever makes sense to you. Make a key to include the meaning of each code, e.g., *OC* = My opinion or comment, *PI* = my first purpose is addressed here, *T* = Telegram
3. If there are none, make your own headings in the margins.
4. Underline or highlight sparingly—less than 10% per page—only “trigger words” to remind you. Underline a whole sentence only IF the language is remarkable.
5. Engage your mind in learning from the author and record your thinking in the margins.
  - a. Read with your mind fully alert.
  - b. Read the lines, between the lines, beyond the lines, talking to the author and going deeply into his or her ideas.
  - c. Personally connect to the text, note your confusions, concerns, disagreements, questions, the implications, what makes you curious, and your ideas stimulated by the text.
6. Revisit your markings later and be amazed at your fine mind. Your codes and the thoughts generated have created a new text that is uniquely “yours”—you have co-authored the text. Refine as more ideas come to you. Enrich your understanding of the author’s messages and of your own ideas.