

## **REAP Notes**

### **APSU Writing Center Handout**

#### **REAP (Read, Encode, Annotate, Ponder) Note-Taking Method**

A four-stage method that helps you engage with a text from multiple perspectives.

Encourages active reading and critical thinking.

Helps summarize and internalize ideas.

Supports discussion and reflection.

#### **How to use the REAP Note-Taking Method**

**R – Read:** Read the text carefully to identify the author’s main ideas.

**E – Encode:** Put the main ideas into your own words to aid understanding.

**A – Annotate:** Write down key points, quotes, significant words, and the author’s message.

**P – Ponder:** Reflect on the content, ask questions, make personal connections, and discuss with others.

#### **REAP Note-Taking Example:**

##### **Read**

The American Revolution: An Analysis

The text is about the causes and effects of the American Revolution

##### **Encode**

**Causes:** taxation without representation, resentment of British control, Enlightenment ideas

**Effects:** independence from British rule, formation of the United States, changes in political power and societal structure

**Annotate**

The colonists felt that the British government was imposing taxes on them without giving them any say in the matter, which was a significant cause of the revolution.

The revolution resulted in the formation of the United States as a sovereign nation and the transfer of power from British rule to the colonists.

**Ponder**

**Question:** How did the events of the American Revolution set the stage for further revolutions and independence movements throughout the world?

**Read** the text. Jot down the title and author.

**Encode** the text by putting the main ideas in your own words/language.

**Annotate** the text by writing a statement that summarizes the important points.

**Ponder** the text by thinking and talking about what you learned. Ask yourself why the author wrote the text. What do you think the author hopes you'll learn?

## References

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