Dialogic Notemaking

To be most useful, notes should involve KNOWLEDGE MAKING and not just information retrieval and reporting. Think of your notes as a conversation between you and the author.

**Dialogic Notemaking**

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**PROCESS: I SAY**

**Freewrite**

Write for 5 minutes on a passage:
- Respond to the source.
- When your writing stalls, return to the passage and find something else to respond to.

**Ask questions**

**React to the source**

**Present your own ideas**

**Re-tell** what the source seems to be saying, in your opinion.

**Make connections** to other ideas, other texts.

Try both **believing and doubting**:  
- The most convincing points the author makes in this essay are _______.
- Though I don’t necessarily agree with the author, I can understand that he/she would think _______ because _______.
- The thing that the author fails to understand or ignores is _______.
- The least convincing claim the author makes is _______.

Tell how your **thinking has changed**:  
- Before I started reading from this source, I thought _______, but now I understand that _______. That makes me think _______.

**HOW MIGHT YOU USE THIS INFORMATION IN YOUR PAPER?**

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**RECORD AND REPORT: THEY SAY**

**quote**

Write down direct quotations from the source when the author’s own words.

**Use when:**
- The author uses distinctive phrasing
- He/she gives an especially clear explanation
- The selection will offer expert support for your ideas

**Paraphrase**

Rewrite a passage in your own words in roughly the same length.

**Use when:**
- All information in a passage seems to be important.

**Summarize**

Reduce longer material into brief statements that capture the basic idea, argument, or theme of the original.

**Use when:**
- The source is based on interesting or useful ideas so you can select the important information and omit what you do not need.