

Writing to Read in the Zones

1. Make a circle or oval in the center of your paper. It only needs to be large enough to put the author and title and underneath the five main topics/ideas within the piece.
2. Divide the remainder of the page into eight zones in which you will write. Number your zones – be sure your numbers are small!
3. Complete your writing for each zone on your paper! As you write, be specific, but keep in mind you don't need long sentences – you can have fragments. Just be sure you are capturing what each zone is asking for!

Zone 1	<i>First Thoughts</i>	Write down your thoughts about the text in general or the concepts you wrote in the circle, or write about the title if you find it significant or intriguing.
Zone 2	<i>Pointing</i>	Select a striking sentence, phrase, word, or image from any part of the text. Fill up the zone with writing about it or from it.
Zone 3	<i>Analysis/Close Reading</i>	Pick a passage that's important to the way you understand or experience the text. Which words or phrases are most central to the meaning and/or beauty of this passage? Why is this passage important to the text as a whole?
Zone 4	<i>Believing and Doubting</i>	Find a central statement or assumption the author makes and first believes (agree) and then doubts (disagree) – or vice versa. Or find a statement that you first believe (agree) and then doubt (disagree). (Make sure you label the agree and the disagree, and if you are referencing yourself or the author!) Or find a portion of the text that you find challenging and write your way into some understanding of it.
Zone 5	<i>Making Inferences</i>	What question is this text answering? What makes it speak? Is there trauma at its center? What do you imagine it to be?
Zone 6	<i>Summarizing</i>	What happens or what does the text say? (Think plot points of the piece here! Making a list is fine!)
Zone 7	<i>Evidence</i>	Examples, facts, illustrations, statistics, anecdotes, definitions, comparisons, quotations, reasons, images, metaphors, similes, symbols, words, or structures – which of these seem important to the argument, the author's intention, or the overall effect and/or meaning of the text? Explain.
Zone 8	<i>Making Connections</i>	What texts, voices, memories, experiences come to mind as you read and write? How do they illuminate your reading?

Finally, read everything recorded on your paper – explore the zones again. Consider the following questions:

- ✓ What's the most important or central thing you are noticing or saying about this text?
- ✓ What does your writing in the different locations add up to or say about the text?

Address your findings in a focused and detailed 8-10 sentences paragraph about the piece!