

ONLINE READING COMPREHENSION LAB

<http://owl.excelsior.edu/orc>

Annotating an Essay or Book



Shared Traits of Essays & Books:

- Thesis-Oriented
- Common Structure (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)

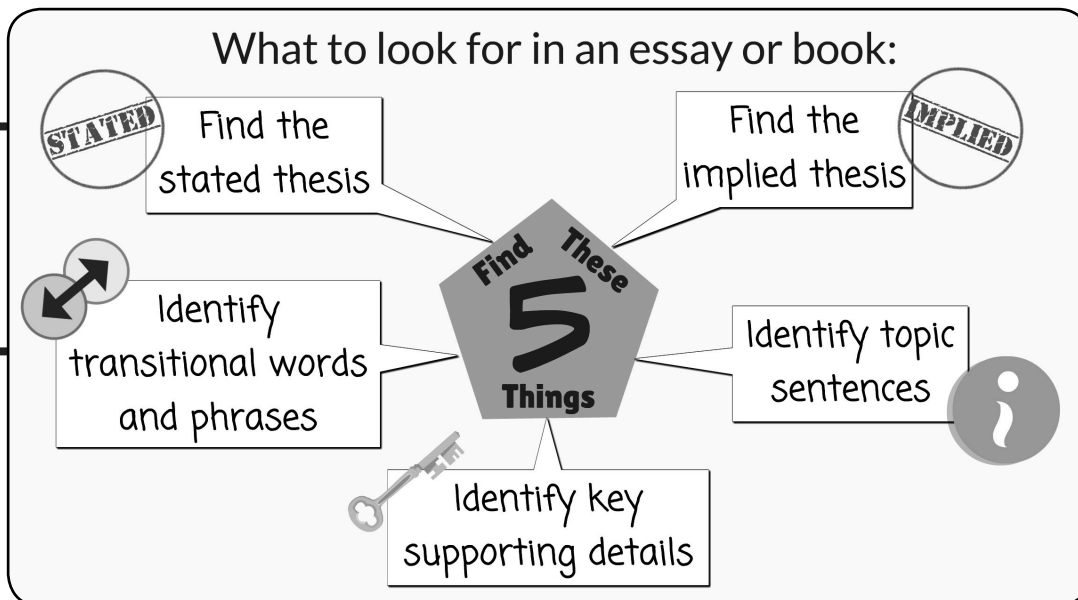
Stated Thesis = Thesis that is explicitly stated in the text

Three Strategies for Discovering the Implied Thesis

- ✓ WORD OR PHRASE + KEY SENTENCE = THESIS
- ✓ KEY SENTENCE + KEY SENTENCE = THESIS
- ✓ SUMMARIZE IMPORTANT IDEAS INTO A ONE-SENTENCE THESIS STATEMENT

Implied Thesis = A thesis that is not directly stated

What to look for in an essay or book:



Supporting Details May Include:

- Facts
- Figures & Statistics
- Quotations or Paraphrases
- Summaries
- Personal Experiences



Types of Transitional Words & Phrases:

- **Example**
(e.g. for example, for instance)
- **Time or Sequence**
(e.g. first, second)
- **Comparison**
(e.g. similarly, likewise)
- **Contrast**
(e.g. however, on the other hand)
- **Concession**
(e.g. admittedly, granted)
- **Addition**
(e.g. furthermore, in addition)
- **Cause and Effect**
(e.g. as a result, consequently)
- **Conclusion**
(e.g. therefore, in conclusion)
- **Summary**
(e.g. in summary, in other words)

Clues to help you find the topic sentence:

- 1 Look for a title or heading that indicates the topic
- 2 Look for a word, name, or phrase in the paragraph that appears in special print
- 3 Look for a word, name, or phrase that is repeated throughout the paragraph
- 4 Look for a word, name, or phrase referred to throughout the paragraph by pronouns or other words