College Ready Reading
When reading needs to be Mowed down!

M = Main Idea
For each paragraph, identify the main idea (usually this will be in the first sentence of the paragraph), then circle it or write a brief phrase that explains the main idea. Mark this with an “M.”

O = Opinion
Every time you encounter a statement that is purely the opinion of the author (or a person/group he is representing), underline it and mark it with an “Op.”

W = What???
When you encounter something that confuses you or raises a question in your mind, underline it and mark it with a “W?” It might be helpful to write a brief summary of your confusion/question.

E = Example/Evidence
When the author provides an example to illustrate his point, underline it and mark it with an “Ex.”

D = Definitions (And Devices)
When the author defines a key word, concept, philosophy, or strategy, underline it and mark it with a “D.”

This category might also include vocabulary which is specific to the material OR that you want to add to your personal lexicon.

If you’re reading literature, also look for devices that the writer uses (e.g., foreshadowing, imagery, irony, metaphors, similes, symbols, themes, etc.). Underline those and mark them with a “D.”