

Selective Underlining/Highlighting

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Why?

- Sets a purpose for reading
- Provides the opportunity for students to practice skimming, critical thinking, and analysis as they read
- Builds on comprehension and understanding of key words, phrases, vocabulary and main ideas and how they are interrelated

How?

- Select an article from a journal, newspaper or a primary source document that is reproducible. (Option: photocopy a section/page of the textbook and make an overhead transparency for demonstration purposes.)
- Provide highlighters for each student, preferably an assortment of colors.
- Decide on your purpose for underlining or highlighting, demonstrate and model and then allow students plenty of opportunity to practice and share. Some examples of highlighting uses: cause and effect (2 colors), text structure, key vocabulary and definitions (2 colors), compare/contrast, and ideas that are essential to the understanding of the text.
- Students may then get together in pairs to share, compare and discuss their highlighting.

