Handout #11—Reading Strategy: Coding the Text

Materials: Sticky notes, cut into 4 pieces, each with sticky on the end.

Coding Key:

V.I.P. Very important information, key concepts
? Information you are confused about or doesn’t make sense
! Wow or Aha, things you find interesting, hard to believe, or unexpected

As you read the text...
Use your sticky note “markers” to mark sections of your text that you find to be key concepts or information (V.I.P.), or information you’re confused about or that doesn’t make sense (?), or information you find interesting, hard to believe, or unexpected (!).

You may find that you need to move your markers as you read new information. Your goal is to use at least eight markers.

When you finish reading . . .
Go back to each marker and place the appropriate symbol on each marker: VIP, ?, or !

For every V.I.P summarize the information in your own words
For every ? write a question to express what confuses you or doesn’t make sense
For every ! summarize what/why you found this interesting. . .

Note: keep these markers in your text; they will be helpful when you review

When you finish your markers . . .
Transfer the information from your markers onto the Coding Text Worksheet