Annotating and Questioning the Text

Re-read your text AGAINST the GRAIN. This is called the doubting game. Begin to question the text and its author. Make marginal notes on the article as you read:

1. In the left margin, label what the author is saying as follows:
   1. The Introduction
   2. The issue or problem the author is writing about
   3. The author’s main arguments
   4. The author’s examples
   5. The author’s conclusion
2. In the right margin, write your reactions to what the author is saying. You can ask questions, express surprise, disagree, elaborate, and note any moments of confusion.
3. When you finish, exchange your copy with a partner who has a similar article. Read your partner’s annotations, and then talk about what you chose to mark and how you reacted to the text. Did you agree on what the main idea was? Did you mark the same arguments and examples? Did you agree on the conclusion? How did your responses differ?
4. Now, with your partner, complete the rhetorical Precis using the notes on your paper.