Structured Protocol for Close Reading

1. *Number the Paragraphs*
   - Have students number the paragraphs or lines of text for quick reference

2. *Chunk the Text*
   Reading pages and pages of text can be daunting. Breaking the reading into smaller sections makes the task doable.
   - Draw lines to delineate each section. Consider the places where a natural break would occur depending on the text structure and content

3. *Read the text (or portion of text) multiple times, each time with a specific purpose or task.*
   - First read is just to familiarize with the topic
   - Scaffold each read-through, starting with easier tasks and gradually digging deeper

4. *Underline and Circle- with a Purpose*
   Give students a purpose for reading-and have them find examples in the text.
   - Direct students to underline and circle specific things (ie. In a poem, underline imagery. In argument writing, underline the claim. In historical texts, underline the factors contributing to an event. Circle key terms, details, names of sources, etc...)

5. *Left Margin-What is the author saying?*
   Write specific notes in the left margin that gives the gist of the material.
   - Summarize each chunk in 10 words or less

6. *Right Margin- Dig Deeper*
   Direct students to now go beyond the literal in the right margin.
   - Use a verb to describe what the author is doing: Comparing the two main characters, making an argument, explaining a concept, etc...
   - Ask questions
   - Draw a symbolic representation of the big idea

7. *Describe what the author is saying and doing:*
   **Saying:** What is this section about? What is the content? What did I learn? What information is presented or important?
   **Doing:** The author is ..........

**Verbs:**

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8. Examine the text in terms of the common core strands:

**Key Ideas and Details**
- What is the theme/central idea?
- How does it develop?
- Main points? Details?
- Character/concept development

**Craft and Structure**
- Use of certain words
- Connotations/Denotations
- Figurative language
- Text structure
- Author's point of view

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**
- Compare/Contrast ideas
- Evaluate an argument

9. If students can’t write on the text, use post its and a graphic organizer to capture ideas
   - Write each prompt/task separately and leave room for notes

10. Summarize and synthesize the text
    - Clarify concepts/themes/ideas
    - Demonstrate understanding and analysis

*Modeling of any or all strategies may be required if students do not initially engage with the text.*