Charting a Text for What It Says/Does
Adapted from the work of Katie Hughes

Charting involves annotating a text in order to show the "work" each paragraph or section (made up of multiple paragraphs) is doing. Charting has many benefits: it helps students to identify what authors are *doing* in various parts of the text rather than simply what s/he is *saying* (and this helps students to move away from summarizing and into analyzing); it can serve as a way to thoroughly understand in a detailed way how a text is put together; it brings rhetorical awareness of the specific choices and deliberate "moves" made by authors throughout a text.

How do we do charting?
Break down texts by section or paragraph to analyze what each section/paragraph is *doing* for the overall argument. Ask, what is the *purpose* of the section/paragraph? What is the author *doing*, *how*, and *why*? It's important to select strong **verbs** to describe what authors *do*.

➢ For instance, maybe the author **makes** a claim, **supports** a claim, **illustrates** with examples/anecdotes, **describes** issues, **contextualizes** the topic, **clarifies** misconceptions, **rebuts** counter arguments, **criticizes** previous work, **appeals** to the audience (to their emotions or sense of logic), **builds** credibility for him/herself, **outlines** what happens next in the text, etc.

Here are some additional sample verbs to draw on (avoid thinks, believes, says/states, discusses):

Try this format: The author [VERB] [IDEA] by [EXPLAIN HOW].

Acknowledges	**Concludes**	**Exemplifies**	**Proposes**
Advocates	**Contrasts**	**Explains**	**(Sets up a)**
Amplifies	**Contradicts**	**Extends**	**parallel**
Analyzes	**(Presents)**	**Forecasts**	**Qualifies**
Argues	**Counterarguments**	**Faults**	**Questions**
(Constructs an)	**(Presents)**	**Frames**	**Rebuts**
Analogy	**Counterexamples**	**Identifies**	**Refines**
Asserts	**Debates**	**Illustrates**	**Repeats**
Assumes	**Deconstructs**	**Introduces**	**Reframes**
Attacks	**Defines**	**Implies**	**Ridicules**
Challenges	**Defends**	**Infers**	**Satirizes**
Claims	**Discusses**	**Investigates**	**Stresses**
Clarifies	**Distinguishes**	**Justifies**	**Summarizes**
Compares	**(between)**	**Outlines**	**Supports**
Complicates	**Exaggerates**	**Parodies**	**Synthesizes**
Concedes	**Examines**	**Predicts**	**Theorizes**
		Problematizes	

Add some of your own: