Key to Response Symbols

Content

	"On Track": relevant, clear, accurate, informed, etc. ? - or x after the symbol indicate varying uncertainty (?), doubt (-), or skepticism (x) about how clearly the marked passage is explicitly contributing to a sense of purpose, forward momentum, flow, continuity, or unity.
\Rightarrow	Very good point or phrasing
Ø	Key Summary. Good. Here you sum up or define an essential idea relevant to your discussion. ? - or x after the symbol signify reservations about the accuracy or relevance of the point. In quotation marks indicates that the idea is expressed in a quotation.
ers	Underlining simply marks key words, phrases, or names without implying judgments in itself. Underlining sometimes serves as a pointer for other response markings nearby.
n(uncanny)n	Key Term introduced: good, interesting, suggestive, useful
7	"Not So Sure": wording or passage not entirely clear and/or relevant to the point or prompt. Some doubt or ambiguity possible about the statement's accuracy or information.
X	Factual error , inaccuracy, misreading, etc.
or	I'm seeing a key analytical distinction , opposition here. Useful.
// or *	I'm seeing a key synthetic connection , comparison or parallel. Interesting
V or→	I'm seeing a key narrative progression or story. Good
or	Items in a list, or analytical points clear here. Well organized.
	Good Example or Telling Instance. In quotation marks, this indicates that this example appears in a quotation.
Ŷ	Signpost : Consider rewriting this sentence or passage to more explicitly summarize what you're going to say in what follows—as well as what you have been saying in the preceding. Such "sign-post" sentence help remind the reader of where we've been, where we're going, what the structuring purpose is, and how this paragraph or section fits into the whole. Symbols? – or x convey problems with signposting here.
CF	Critical Focus: In your summaries and commentaries on another source, be sure that your wording and sentence structures keep the focus on that source. If your source is a chapter by Alexander Galloway in which he discusses Lev Manovich's analysis of online games, for instance, your sentence structures should keep reminding us that your purpose is to explain not Manovich or online games, but what Galloway is saying about them.
d	Details support ideas ambiguously, very well, or not, depending on the symbol following: ?, +, -, x
focus	Rather than speaking in a broad categories (e.g., people, today, everybody, we, Americans, becoming an adult, good for society), consider focusing on a more specific one (young female Instagram users, since 9/11, devotees of '80s nostalgia, growing up on the Range). Focusing on a more specific case or category gives you much more to think about and say.
more	"Okay, But Keep Going": Passage would benefit from more development; more detail, elaboration, substantiation, or support to characterize more fully the original source, or unpack your own ideas.
pov	Point of View. This note indicates some issue with point of view: assumptions about the audience/reader, the implied disciplinary perspective/purpose, levels of word usage, 1 st vs. 3 rd person voice, time context, consistency of viewpoint, voice, or idiom, etc.
S	This refers to a source : primary source (PS), secondary source (SS), academic source (AS), non-academic source (NAS), unclear source (S?), incorrect source (SX), etc.
Sub	"Substantiate." This idea or point needs the support of concrete details, evidence, a quotation from some authoritative source—something from the outside world to lend your words and ideas substance. Avoid relying on simple pronouncements of truth or wisdom, often attributed to "we" or "it is"
T	Terminology applied very well, ambiguously, or incorrectly, depending on the symbol following the T: + for good usage of term, ? for not so sure, - for imprecise usage, x for incorrect usage of term

Mechanics

ers	Mechanical or spelling error , or vague or awkward idiom , possibly due to a misused, mistyped, or missing word. Wording might be non- idiomatic or too informal.
ers	Insert
(fg 72). or	Delete, or consider deleting
I think that Alexa	
man(a)	Move
(na)	Reverse order
T =	Capitalize the letter
R	Make the letter lower case
9	Insert Paragraph Break. Strike through of the symbol (/) means to remove paragraph break and keep together.
agn	Grammatical agr eement incorrect. Examples: "Each citizen values their privacy,"
AP	Avoid Plagiarism: be careful to quote, attribute, and cite the words, phrases, sentence structures, or original ideas/insights of others.
AQ	Analyze Quotation: Deciding to quote someone else in your writing is an investment. To get sufficient value out of that investment, don't just drop a quotation into your paragraph and move on, assuming the reader understands the quotations meaning and relevance. In your writing below the quotation, interpret its wording and explore its implications, applying your interpretations to your ongoing point and purpose.
C	Cite the source for quotations and original ideas, using MLA parenthetical citation format.
IQ	Introduce (or Integrate) Quotation : Take care to introduce quotations before you use them, or otherwise integrate them into the flow of your own wording and ideas. Avoid dropping quotations into the middle of paragraphs, or tagging them onto the beginning or end.
Hal	Italicize. For instance, you should be sure to italicize titles of books, movies, and other large works, rather than using Roman (non-Italic) type quotation marks, or underlined to distinguish them.
NCS	Not Complete Sentence. While sentence fragments can sometimes be effective, here the incomplete sentence seems unintended or out of place. Consider combining the incomplete sentence with the preceding or following sentence, or revising punctuation to present your intended rhythm and syntax more effectively.
pana	Items need to be made parallel in construction. Example of a problem with parallelism: "He liked to play baseball and riding horses."
QN	Avoid using quotations as if they were nouns , as in "You know what you can remember' is how Walter Ong explains the significance of oral storytelling."
ref	Grammatical ref erence unclear or ambiguous. This can happen when a pronoun like "it" or "he" refers to more than one possible noun, for instance, or when dependent clause seems to refer to an inappropriate noun: "Having waited all year, the clouds obscured the meteor shower."
rep	Undesirable repetition
t	Possible problem with grammatical tense . When summarizing the statements and arguments of a printed source, for example, be sure to use the "literary present tense." (In <i>Dracula</i> , Bram Stoker <i>suggests</i> , he <i>describes</i> , he <i>warns</i> —though he died in 1912. Stoker's character Jonathan <i>notices</i> , <i>worries</i> , and <i>plans</i> .)
VV	Use a more vivid verb . Rather than using generic verbs like "says" or "states," you could write that the source "asserts," "jokes," "observes," "argues," "complains," "objects," "reassures," "answers," "wonders," etc. It's possible to go overboard with this or to mischaracterize the writer's tone or intention, but generally vivid verbs make for clearer and more interesting critical writing.
ww	Wrong word in this place.