

CURTISS

ANNOTATION

NOMENCLATURE

A Comprehensive System for Book Annotation

100 Codes for Reading Across Disciplines

v.1.0.0

The Curtiss Annotation Nomenclature (C.A.N.) is a comprehensive, systematic approach to reading and annotation. It provides one hundred carefully designed C.A.N. Codes for marking important passages, ideas, and elements across various book genres and topics—from fiction to philosophy, from technical manuals to theological texts, from biographies to business books. This expansive system enables readers to create meaningful, searchable annotations that enhance comprehension and facilitate knowledge synthesis across disciplines.

Each C.A.N. Code is a concise one- to two-letter abbreviation that you write and then circle in the margin next to relevant text. Outside of (*and either above or below*) the circle you can add detailed notes. If you merely wish to communicate that a specific passage is well liked, well disliked, or critically important, an Emphasizer can be added outside of the circle and to the right. This systematic approach enables efficient annotation during reading while still allowing you to flip through pages and instantly identify marked content. The system is flexible—you select only the C.A.N. Code relevant to your reading purpose, discipline, and/or analytical goals.

It is important to keep in mind that although there are 100 C.A.N. Codes, the intention is not that you annotate every single instance of something. For example, to note every instance of a given term or concept might lead to a reduction in value. You should strive to mark the passages that stand out to you or the passages that might prove useful in other contexts or projects upon which you may work. Additionally, try to add something substantive to each note so that upon embarking on a second reading, you gain from your previous observations. And should you decide to share the book with someone else, they will have the opportunity to benefit from your insights as well.

The final recommendation is to note somewhere in the book—on the title page or at the beginning of the chapter "CAN-1.0.0"—to indicate that the C.A.N. system of annotation (*specifically version 1.0.0 in this case*) is being employed, so that it is clear to you later, and to other readers, that they can consult this document and ascertain the meaning of the C.A.N. Code(s). And one day, you may pick up an intriguing used book and find annotations that match what you've already been using, and you'll experience that instant, quiet, and deeply personal feeling of belonging to a community. And community, my dear friend, is one of the most significant reasons we read and write at all.

Table of Contents

1. All 100 C.A.N. Codes and 3 Emphasizers with Explanation.....	3
C.A.N. CODES	3
EMPHASIZERS.....	5
2. C.A.N. Codes Separated by Sections	6
UNIVERSAL MARKERS	6
CONTENT & IDEAS	6
ARGUMENTATION & LOGIC.....	6
NARRATIVE & FICTION.....	7
HISTORICAL & CONTEXTUAL.....	7
PHILOSOPHICAL & THEORETICAL	7
THEOLOGICAL & SEMINARY	7
TECHNICAL & STEM.....	7
POLITICAL SCIENCE & LAW	8
RHETORICAL DEVICES & STYLE.....	8
CRITICAL THEORY.....	8
ACADEMIC & STUDENT USE.....	8
VISUAL & STRUCTURAL.....	8
3. Usage Guide.....	9
BASIC USE	9
CORE PRINCIPLES	9
THE EMPHASIZER	10
4. Versioning	13
5. Contributions.....	13
6. Thank You.....	13

1. All 100 C.A.N. Codes and 3 Emphasizers with Explanation

Complete alphabetical listing of all 100 CAN Codes. The list of CAN Codes is followed by the list of Emphasizers.

C.A.N. CODES

1. **!** - Surprising or unexpected
2. **?** - Question validity or accuracy (*doubt correctness, not comprehension*)
3. **A** - Noteworthy (*i.e. good, bad, peculiar etc.*) analogy
4. **AG** - Agree with this (*can also use with a note for a disclaimer-added agreement*)
5. **AL** - Allegory - entire story has symbolic deeper meaning
6. **AO** - Abolition - abolitionist thinking regarding oppressive systems
7. **AP** - Application - how to apply concept in practice
8. **AR** - Argument structure or logical progression - how argument is built
9. **AS** - Assumption - stated or unstated, foundational or questionable
10. **AT** - Action/Task - something to do or implement
11. **AU** - Allusion - indirect reference to other works or events
12. **B** - Breakthrough - author's major insight or discovery
13. **BG** - Background context - historical, cultural, technical, geographical
14. **BV** - Behavior - behavioral patterns, behavioral economics, habits, actions
15. **C** - Claim or argument being made
16. **CA** - Counterargument - addresses opposing views
17. **CB** - Callback - references earlier moment in text
18. **CE** - Cause and effect relationship
19. **CF** - Confusing or unclear (*comprehension issue, not doubt*)
20. **CH** - Character insight or development, or noteworthy/important character
21. **CN** - Conclusion - main takeaway or conclusion
22. **CO** - Connect to another book, current events, or personal experience
23. **CR** - Cross-reference - author explicitly cites another passage, book, or verse
24. **CT** - Critique - author critiques another idea, philosopher, or theory
25. **CX** - Context crucial - requires cultural or historical background to understand
26. **D** - Definition - term explicitly defined
27. **DI** - Dialogue - particularly noteworthy character speech
28. **DK** - Dark, distressing - depressing, sad, bleak, traumatic, grief
29. **DL** - Dialectic - dialectical method, Socratic questioning, thesis-antithesis-synthesis
30. **DO** - Doctrine - doctrinal position (*includes ecclesiology, eschatology*)
31. **DT** - Date or timeline marker - important chronological information
32. **E** - Evidence or data - supports argument (*includes statistics, qualitative evidence etc.*)
33. **ER** - Erasure or silence - historical erasure, archival silence, what's missing
34. **ET** - Ethical teaching - moral instruction
35. **EX** - Example or illustration - clarifying example (*pedagogical purpose*)
36. **FH** - Foreshadowing - hints at future events
37. **FL** - Flaw in reasoning - logical fallacy, methodology error, code bug
38. **FN** - Footnote or note - important footnote, endnote, or marginal note
39. **FO** - Formula or equation - important to know (*financial, scientific, mathematical*)
40. **FR** - Framing argument - sets up later argument
41. **H** - Humorous or funny
42. **HF** - Historical fact - factual event or date

43. **HG** – Hegemony – dominant ideology or power structure (*White Supremacy etc.*)
44. **HY** – Hyperbole or exaggeration
45. **I** – Irony – noteworthy irony
46. **IN** – Insight – your personal realization (*not author's discovery*)
47. **IS** – Institution or structure – institutional racism, structures
48. **IX** – Intersectionality – race, gender, class, sexuality intersection
49. **J** – Beautiful, lovely, and/or moving in a significantly pleasant capacity
50. **JX** – Juxtaposition or contrast – comparing opposites
51. **JY** – Joy or pleasure – joy, pleasure, life-making
52. **KC** – Key concept – central important concept
53. **LG** – Law or legal – legal structures, legislation, case law, treaties
54. **LN** – Language – Any language-related note (*i.e. French, English, German, Latin etc.*)
55. **M** – Metaphor – noteworthy direct comparison
56. **MI** – Massive implications – far-reaching consequences or importance
57. **MO** – Model or framework – theoretical model, diagram, organizational framework
58. **NL** – Neologism – invented term, or (*technical, intentional or unintentional*) redefinition
59. **NT** – Counter-narrative – challenges dominant narrative
60. **OP** – Oppression – theorization of oppression (*anti-Blackness, sexism, ableism etc.*)
61. **PA** – Pattern – recurring theme, design pattern, or motif
62. **PF** – Proof or derivation – mathematical or logical proof step
63. **PP** – Perspective or point of view – whose narrative or viewpoint
64. **PR** – Principle – foundational rule or teaching
65. **PX** – Paradox or mystery – contradictory statement revealing truth
66. **Q** – Quote worthy – would use this phrase (*or some variation*) in your own writing
67. **R** – Research, review, or link – return to this for any reason
68. **RA** – Resistance or agency – acts of resistance, refusal, fugitivity, escape
69. **RG** – Rage or anger – righteous anger, political anger
70. **RH** – Rhetorical device – effective persuasion technique
71. **RK** – Risk – risk analysis, risk management (*finance, business, psychology, medicine*)
72. **RV** – Recovery – historical recovery or reclamation
73. **S** – Setting or environment building – physical or atmospheric
74. **SB** – Sidebar or box – key information in sidebar, callout, or boxed text
75. **SC** – School of thought – philosophical tradition, political ideology
76. **SO** – Source code example – particularly noteworthy implementation
77. **SP** – Speculation or imagination – what-if, critical fabulation, radical imagination
78. **SS** – Sound or style technique – alliteration, rhythm, sentence structure
79. **ST** – Story – retell-able narrative (*includes personal anecdotes, parables, case studies*)
80. **SU** – Summary or synthesis – author compresses complex idea
81. **SY** – Symbolic or figurative – non-literal interpretation
82. **T** – Thematic statement – central theme or thematic claim
83. **TC** – Technology or concept – interesting tech or scientific idea
84. **TE** – Technical explanation – algorithm, architecture, process, philosophical system
85. **TH** – Thought experiment – philosophical hypothetical or gedankenexperiment
86. **TM** – Terminology – specific technical term used
87. **TP** – Turning point or pivotal moment
88. **TS** – Test or study material – likely exam material, must know
89. **TV** – Text variant – different manuscript readings
90. **TX** – Translation issue – English obscures original meaning

91. **V** - Verse reference - important scripture citation
92. **VI** - Vivid imagery - striking visual description
93. **VL** - Violence - structural violence or state violence
94. **VZ** - Visual - important diagram, chart, graph, table, or image
95. **W** - Love the wording, diction, and/or phrasing
96. **WB** - Worldbuilding - creating unique fictional universe rules
97. **WS** - Word study - etymology, semantic range, nuance
98. **WT** - Witnessing or testimony - first-person accounts with evidentiary weight
99. **WV** - Worldview revealed - author's fundamental beliefs showing through
100. **X** - Disagree with this

EMPHASIZERS

1. **+** - Positive - "x" CAN Code is a supremely good thing, or a thing you really like
2. **-"** - Negative - "x" CAN Code is a supremely bad thing, or a thing you really dislike
3. ***** - Critical/Important - "x" CAN Code is supremely important and really critical

2. C.A.N. Codes Separated by Sections

All 100 C.A.N. Codes organized by discipline and function.

These sectionals are not formal. The idea is merely to help you group them mentally as you begin using them. Many of the C.A.N. Codes can (*and will*) be used across the various sections.

UNIVERSAL MARKER

These are not likely to be most used in any book type

1. **!** - Surprising or unexpected
2. **?** - Question validity or accuracy (*doubt correctness, not comprehension*)
3. **AG** - Agree with this
4. **CF** - Confusing or unclear (*comprehension issue, not doubt*)
5. **CO** - Connect to another book, current events, or personal experience
6. **H** - Humorous or funny
7. **IN** - Insight - your personal realization (*not author's discovery*)
8. **J** - Beautiful, lovely, or moving in a significantly pleasant capacity
9. **Q** - Quote worthy phrase - would use it (*or some variation*) in your own writing or life
10. **R** - Research, review, or link - return to this for any reason
11. **W** - Noteworthy wording - excellent diction; this single word is noteworthy
12. **X** - Disagree with this

CONTENT & IDEAS

These are not likely to be most used in Nonfiction, but also work in Fiction

1. **B** - Breakthrough - author's major insight or discovery
2. **C** - Claim or argument being made
3. **CN** - Conclusion - main takeaway or conclusion
4. **D** - Definition - term explicitly defined
5. **E** - Evidence or data - supports argument (*includes statistics, qualitative evidence, all data types*)
6. **EX** - Example or illustration - clarifying example (*pedagogical purpose*)
7. **HF** - Historical fact - factual event or date
8. **KC** - Key concept - central important concept
9. **MI** - Massive implications - far-reaching consequences or importance
10. **SU** - Summary or synthesis - author compresses complex idea
11. **T** - Thematic statement - central theme or thematic claim

ARGUMENTATION & LOGIC

These are likely to be most used in Nonfiction, philosophy, general academic, or debate related works

1. **AR** - Argument structure or logical progression - how argument is built
2. **AS** - Assumption - stated or unstated, foundational or questionable
3. **CA** - Counterargument - addresses opposing views
4. **CE** - Cause and effect relationship
5. **CT** - Critique - author critiques another idea, philosopher, or theory
6. **DL** - Dialectic - dialectical method, Socratic questioning, thesis-antithesis-synthesis
7. **FL** - Flaw in reasoning - logical fallacy, methodology error, code bug
8. **FR** - Framing argument - sets up later argument
9. **PF** - Proof or derivation - mathematical or logical proof step

10. **PX** – Paradox or mystery - contradictory statement revealing truth
11. **TH** – Thought experiment - philosophical hypothetical or gedankenexperiment

NARRATIVE & FICTION

These are most likely to be used in Fiction works, but also may find use in narrative Nonfiction

1. **CB** – Callback - references earlier moment in text
2. **CH** – Character insight or development
3. **DI** – Dialogue – particularly noteworthy character speech
4. **FH** – Foreshadowing - hints at future events
5. **S** – Setting or environment building - physical or atmospheric
6. **ST** – Story – retell-able narrative (*includes personal anecdotes, parables, case studies*)
7. **TP** – Turning point or pivotal moment
8. **WB** – Worldbuilding - creating unique fictional universe rules

HISTORICAL & CONTEXTUAL

These are likely to be used in history, biography or political science books

1. **BG** – Background context - historical, cultural, technical, geographical
2. **CR** – Cross-reference - author explicitly cites another passage, book, or verse
3. **CX** – Context crucial - requires cultural or historical background to understand
4. **DT** – Date or timeline marker - important chronological information
5. **PA** – Pattern - recurring theme, design pattern, or motif
6. **PP** – Perspective or point of view - whose narrative or viewpoint
7. **WT** – Witnessing or testimony - first-person accounts with evidentiary weight

PHILOSOPHICAL & THEORETICAL (*Philosophy, critical theory*)

1. **NL** – Neologism - invented term, or technical redefinition
2. **PR** – Principle - foundational rule or teaching
3. **SC** – School of thought - philosophical tradition, political ideology
4. **TM** – Terminology - specific technical term used
5. **WV** – Worldview revealed - author's fundamental beliefs showing through

THEOLOGICAL & SEMINARY (*Theology, biblical studies, church history*)

1. **DO** – Doctrine - doctrinal position (*includes ecclesiology, eschatology*)
2. **ET** – Ethical teaching - moral instruction
3. **LN** – Language – Any language-related note
4. **SY** – Symbolic or figurative - non-literal interpretation
5. **TV** – Text variant - different manuscript readings
6. **TX** – Translation issue - English obscures original meaning
7. **V** – Verse reference - important scripture citation
8. **WS** – Word study - etymology, semantic range, nuance

TECHNICAL & STEM (*Software, mathematics, science*)

1. **BV** – Behavior – behavioral patterns, behavioral economics, habits, actions
2. **FO** – Formula or equation - important to know (*financial, scientific, mathematical*)
3. **MO** – Model or framework - theoretical model, diagram, organizational framework
4. **RK** – Risk – risk analysis, risk management

5. **SO** – Source code example - particularly noteworthy implementation
6. **TC** – Technology or concept - interesting tech or scientific idea
7. **TE** – Technical explanation - algorithm, architecture, process, philosophical system

POLITICAL SCIENCE & LAW (*Politics, policy, governance, legal*)

1. **LG** – Law or legal - legal structures, legislation, case law, treaties

RHETORICAL DEVICES & STYLE (*Any book type, especially literary*)

1. **A** – Noteworthy analogy
2. **AL** – Allegory - entire story has symbolic deeper meaning
3. **AU** – Allusion - indirect reference to other works or events
4. **HY** – Hyperbole or exaggeration
5. **I** – Irony
6. **JX** – Juxtaposition or contrast - comparing opposites
7. **M** – Metaphor – noteworthy direct comparison
8. **RH** – Rhetorical device - effective persuasion technique
9. **SS** – Sound or style technique - alliteration, rhythm, sentence structure
10. **VI** – Vivid imagery - striking visual description

CRITICAL THEORY (*Africana studies, critical theory*)

1. **AO** – Abolition - abolitionist thinking regarding oppressive systems
2. **DK** – Dark, distressing - depressing, sad, bleak, traumatic, grief
3. **ER** – Erasure or silence - historical erasure, archival silence, what's missing
4. **HG** – Hegemony – dominant ideology or power structure
5. **IS** – Institution or structure - institutional racism, structures
6. **IX** – Intersectionality - race, gender, class, sexuality intersection
7. **JY** – Joy or pleasure - joy, pleasure, life-making
8. **NT** – Counter-narrative - challenges dominant narrative
9. **OP** – Oppression – theorization of oppression (*anti-Blackness, sexism, racism etc.*)
10. **RA** – Resistance or agency - acts of resistance, refusal, fugitivity, escape
11. **RG** – Rage or anger - righteous anger, political anger
12. **RV** – Recovery - historical recovery or reclamation
13. **SP** – Speculation or imagination - what-if, critical fabulation, radical imagination
14. **VL** – Violence - structural violence or state violence

ACADEMIC & STUDENT USE (*Textbooks, exam preparation*)

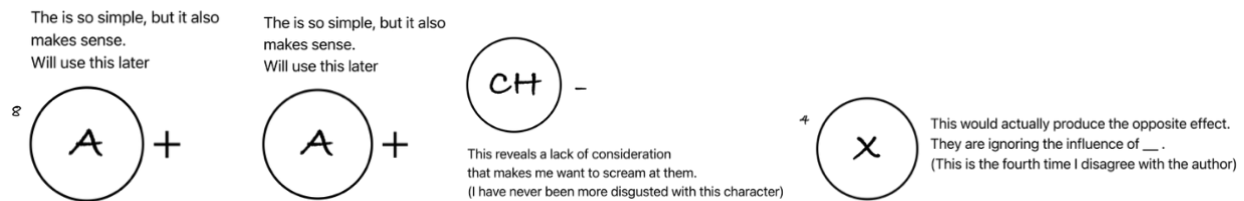
1. **AT** – Action/Task - something to do or implement
2. **AP** – Application - how to apply concept in practice
3. **TS** – Test or study material - likely exam material, must know

VISUAL & STRUCTURAL (*Modern books, textbooks*)

1. **FN** – Footnote or note - important footnote, endnote, or marginal note
2. **SB** – Sidebar or box - key information in sidebar, callout, or boxed text
3. **VZ** – Visual - important diagram, chart, graph, table, or image

3. Usage Guide

Various practical and general recommendations for strategic use of C.A.N. across different reading contexts and disciplines.



BASIC USE

In the margin:

1. Write the CAN Code
2. Circle the CAN Code
3. [Optional] Add the Emphasizer outside of the circle, and to the right
4. [Optional] Add a note outside the circle, but also in as close proximity to the circle as possible
 - a. The recommendation is to put the note below the circle (*if there's an emphasize*), or to the right (*if there isn't an emphasize*)
 - b. However, every book is a little different, so discretion is advised. If you need to place the note somewhere else and play "Margin Gymnastics" to get your note in there, then remember that the goal is to be able to relate the note to the CAN Code and (*as always*) to be able to read your note, so Go for The Gold!

CORE PRINCIPLES

The CAN Codes are intended to be flexible. They are chiefly for annotating noteworthiness.

- For example, "A" (*without an emphasize*) for Analogy could be used for:
 - ◆ an analogy you like
 - ◆ or an analogy you dislike
 - ◆ or an analogy you find peculiar
 - ◆ or simply to note that an analogy was used at all
- The answer to which meaning is being deployed is determined by the emphasize or note accompanying the CAN Code.
 - ◆ If there isn't a note alongside the CAN Code (*which is acceptable*), the assumption is that the CAN Code is simply there to indicate an occurrence and nothing more
 - ◆ If you are counting occurrences (*i.e. the number of analogies in a chapter*) and wish to note the number as you count, you should do so by adding a number to the top, right, outermost part of the circle (*i.e. this can indicate, for example, that 'x' is the 4th Analogy used etc.*)

The more universal CAN Codes (!, ?, AG, CF, CO, H, IN, K, Q, R, W, X,) work in every book.

Most other CAN Codes cross multiple genres and disciplines. Strategic annotation means choosing the CAN Code that best captures your purpose in marking the passage.

It is recommended that you only use one CAN Code, in the margin, for each passage or section. If you would like to use multiple, you should use one CAN Code over the text (*in the center or main section of the page*), and one CAN Code in the margin.

THE EMPHASIZER

Emphasizers are entirely optional, but they exist primarily because the CAN Codes are generally not meant to (*on their own*) communicate a like or dislike for something, only noteworthiness. This means there is a gap. And that gap *can* be solved by a CAN Code, followed by the text, “I liked this” or “I disliked this” and while that is valuable, margin space is limited. Hence, emphasizeers exist to eliminate the necessity for those comments.

With emphasizeers, you can have more space to write and answer the question, “Why do I like this?” or “Why do I dislike this?” and that allows you to take your thoughts, feelings, opinions, and annotations to the next level.

The primary recommendation is that you only use one emphasizeer per CAN Code. And you put the emphasizeer outside of the circle, and to the right. This way, you can come back and change it later if that happens. For example, you may read a passage initially and really dislike an analogy, and then you may return on a subsequent reading and find that you like that analogy. With the emphasizeer on the outside, you don’t have to squeeze into the circle and change it, you’re able to simply add a line down the middle.

Keep in mind, co are always welcome to add those comments. Remember, you want to only use emphasizeers when you really want to emphasize something. An emphasizeer should always, or most often, communicate a “strong” dislike, a “strong” like, or a “strong” belief that something is important. And this a “strong” recommendation

Fiction ↔ Nonfiction Crossover

When reading fiction with nonfiction elements (*historical novels, philosophical fiction*):

- Use CH (*character insight/development*) for both fictional characters and when author reveals biographical details
- Use HF (*historical fact*) for historical events embedded in fiction
- Use T (*thematic statement*) for thematic statements whether explicit or embedded in narrative
- Use TP (*turning point/pivotal moment*) for both plot climaxes and moments of philosophical insight

When reading narrative nonfiction (*memoir, creative nonfiction, New Journalism*):

- Use ST (*story – retell-able narrative*) for powerful stories even when they're the author's actual experience
- Use FH (*foreshadowing*) when author hints at future developments in their life
- Use S (*setting/environment building*) for scene-setting in narrative nonfiction
- Use literary CAN Codes (*M - metaphor, A - analogy, VI - vivid imagery*) for stylistic excellence or noteworthiness (*i.e. sometimes the style is peculiar, and you may want to note it*) regardless of genre

Cross-Discipline Academic Reading

Core analytical CAN Codes work everywhere:

- C (*claim/argument*), E (*evidence/data*), AR (*argument structure*) – Use in philosophy, science, law, theology, business
- AS (*assumption*) – Mark unstated premises in any field, note 'limitation' for study limitations
- FL (*flaw in reasoning*) – Works for logical fallacies, methodology errors, contradictions, software bugs
- KC (*key concept*) – Central ideas in any discipline

Theology ↔ Philosophy Crossover

CAN Codes that work in both:

- PX (*paradox/mystery*) – Use for logical paradoxes (philosophy) or theological mysteries, context clarifies which
- ET (*ethical teaching*) – Ethical teaching works whether from religious or philosophical tradition
- PR (*principle*) – Principles from either Aristotle or Aquinas
- WV (*worldview revealed*) – Mark worldview claims in both philosophical and theological texts

Strategic choice when both CAN Codes fit:

- If reading Kierkegaard: Use both DO (*doctrine*) and TM (*terminology*) as needed
- If a claim is both ET (*ethical teaching*) and DO (*doctrine*), choose based on your purpose: ET if analyzing ethics, DO if analyzing theology

Critical Theory Across Traditions

African American Studies CAN Codes work broadly:

- IS (*institution/structure*) – Use for any structural analysis: racism, sexism, ableism, heteronormativity (note which)
- VL (*violence - structural/state*) – Structural violence in various context: political, gendered, racial, colonial
- RA (*resistance/agency*) – Any resistance movement or agentive act
- IX (*intersectionality*) – Use beyond race: disability/class, sexuality/ethnicity, etc.

When reading Queer Theory, Feminist Theory, Disability Studies, Postcolonial Theory:

Use CAN Codes with notes:

- 'IS (*institution/structure*) - heteronormativity', 'VL (*violence*) - gendered violence', 'RA (*resistance*) - crip resistance'
- Use ER (*erasure/silence*) and RV (*recovery*) for marginalized group's history
- Use NT (*counter-narrative*) for any challenge to dominant narratives

Business, Leadership & Practical Books

Essential business CAN Codes:

- ST (*story*) – All case studies in business books
- MO (*model/framework*) – Business models, frameworks, strategic matrices

- FO (*formula/equation*) – Financial formulas, ROI calculations, metrics
- AT (*action item*) & AP (*application*) – Action items and how to apply them
- PR (*principle*) – Business principles and leadership maxims

When CAN Codes overlap:

- CEO memoir with leadership lessons: Use ST (*story*) for stories, PR (*principle*) for principles, IN (*insight*) for your realizations
- Strategy book with frameworks: Use MO (*model/framework*) for models, KC (*key concept*) for core concepts, C (*claim*) for strategic claims

Working with Broader CAN Codes

These CAN Codes are intentionally broad – add a clarifying note to specify:

- E (*evidence/data*) – Note 'statistic', 'qualitative', 'experimental' as needed
- AS (*assumption*) – Note 'premise', 'limitation', 'caveat', 'boundary condition'
- R (*research/review/link*) – Note 'research X topic', 'reread', 'link to Y'
- IS (*institution/structure*) – Note specific structure: 'surveillance', 'coloniality', 'heteronormativity'
- DK (*dark/distressing*) – Note specific affect if it matters: 'grief', 'trauma', 'depression'
- ST (*story*) – Note type: 'case study', 'parable', 'personal', 'illustration'
- CH (*character*) – Note 'first appearance' for character introductions
- TP (*turning point*) – Note 'evolution' when tracking gradual intellectual development
- FL (*flaw in reasoning*) – Note type: 'logical fallacy', 'contradiction', 'methodology error'

Visual & Structural Elements

- VZ (*visual - diagram/chart/graph/table*) – Note diagrams, charts, tables you'll want to find later (*textbooks, business books*)
- SB (*sidebar/box*) – Note Key information in sidebars (*textbooks, 'For Dummies' books, popular nonfiction*)
- FN (*footnote/note*) – Note important footnotes (*academic works, historical texts where footnotes contain crucial info*)

Strategic Decision Framework

When multiple CAN Codes fit, choose based on purpose:

- If marking for later reference: Choose the most specific, searchable CAN Code
- If marking for analysis: Choose CAN Code that captures analytical category (AR - *argument structure*, AS - *assumption*)
- If marking for personal response: Use universal markers (J - *beautiful*, W - *loved wording*, Q - *quotable*, IN - *insight*, AG - *agree*, X - *disagree*)
- If marking for exam prep: Use TS (*test/study material*), KC (*key concept*), D (*definition*), FO (*formula*) as primary CAN Codes

4. Versioning

This document, The Official Guide to The CAN System of Codes and Emphasizers uses the Semantic Versioning ([see here](#)). This is the following general framework for how versioning will be updated:

- If any of the CAN Codes (*or Emphasizer*) values change, that constitutes a major version increase to this document
- If any explanation is added, edited, or removed, that constitutes a minor version increase to this document
- If there is a spelling or grammar change, that constitutes a patch version increase to this document

This document will be reviewed as feedback is submitted, and changes will be grouped together to minimize the number of new versions.

5. Contributions

Feedback and contributions are welcome.

- If you're primarily looking to contribute, please navigate to the public GitHub repo and open an Issue.
 - ◆ You'll want to consider thinking through and answering the following questions (*in no order, and not necessarily all of them*):
 - What is the current problem or dilemma?
 - What do you want to change?
 - Why do you want to change it?
 - How critical do you think the change is?
 - How would this change improve the system?
 - What are the risks of making this change?
- If you're mostly looking to provide feedback or ask a question, you can [send an email](#)
 - ◆ You can also send an email if you would like to contribute but don't want to go through GitHub. When I am available, I'll do my best to summarize the email, open an issue in the GitHub repository, and monitor the feedback to ascertain if the update is beneficial
 - ◆ To aid with time efficiency, please place in the subject line
 - "CAN-F: ..." for Feedback (*i.e. what you like, dislike*) emails
 - "CAN-C: ..." for Contribution ideas, general suggestions
 - "CAN-Q: ..." for Use-Case Questions (*i.e. "How should I think through my current use-case?"*)
- Please be advised: Any email that provides unique positive value may be mentioned or referenced on GitHub, and/or in this Guide
 - ◆ In those cases, all personally identifiable information will be omitted, but this does not include information about the book

6. Thank You

Thank you for using the C.A.N. System! The heartfelt hope is that the system is intuitive, it enhances your annotating, enriches your notes with value, and most of all, brings readers together.

The C.A.N. system is a comprehensive, evolving framework designed to support scholarly reading across disciplines