The Art of Metacommunication

At this point in our course, you are learning to make your own claims and back those claims up with evidence. However, as Graff and Birkenstein note in *They Say, I Say*, sometimes, “no matter how clear you are, your readers may still need you to help them process what you mean” (125). Basically, what Graff and Birkenstein mean is that while you may know what you mean, your readers may not have thought about your topic in quite the same way as you have, so you need to help them out. One way to do this is to use metacommunication. (By now, the word “meta” should be very familiar to you...so metacommunication means basically that you are commenting on your commentary.) In your close reading paper, you will need to use metacommunication to help explain both what you are saying and what Freire is saying. Here are some examples that should help.

**Using Metacommunication to Explain what They Are Saying:**

- Essentially, Freire is arguing that _________________________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- Freire writes that _____________________________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________. While at first this may seem confusing,
  what he really means is ____________________________________________________________________________.
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- As I mentioned earlier, Freire wants readers to understand that ______________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- To put it another way, what Freire wants us to realize is ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- While at first this idea may seem trivial, readers should realize that ______________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.

**Using Metacommunication to Highlight What You Are Saying:**

- To put it another way, I believe that ______________________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- Essentially, I am arguing that __________________________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.
- My point is not that Freire cares about __________________________________________________________,
  but rather that ________________________________________________________________________________
- In order to prove that __________________________________________________________ is true, this paper will explore __________________________________________________________
  ____________________________________________________________________________________________.