

## *Decoding Meditations*

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as you read through *Meditations*. You will need yellow, orange, green, and blue highlighters.

**Yellow** = I say

**Orange** = They say

**Green** = Supporting evidence

**Blue** = So what

Underline = Methodology

1. **So What?** Why is Descartes writing this text?
  
2. **Who Cares?** If Descartes is successful, who will care about this? (This is not clearly stated, it is implied within the “so what”)
  
3. **Methodology.** What is Descartes’ methodology for his plan? (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)
  
4. Circle one. Who is **They** in Meditations? Who is Descartes arguing with?
  - a. Another person
  - b. Society
  - c. himself
  
5. For each argument, summarize the **main idea/thesis** under **I Say**, its **rebuttal** under **They Say**, and the **supporting evidence** used under **Evidence**. Also, highlight these as you read through the text.

<b>I Say (yellow)</b>	<b>They Say (orange)</b>	<b>Evidence (green)</b>
1. I exist	Senses can deceive us = doubtful Have visions like crazy people when sleeping	Senses Foundational beliefs come from senses If reject this, will be like a Madman
2.		
3.		
4.		

6. What **transitions** does Descartes use to indicate he is switching from **I say** to **They say**?