Highlighting the Neuron Lesson – Annotation Guide and Discussion Questions


Directions: Annotation Explanation
As you are reading the article, use the markings below to help you organize your note taking.

Underline main ideas

Circle important vocabulary words (maximum of 3)

Triangle around words you’re unsure of

Directions: Questions
Once you have finished reading, answer the questions below using evidence from the text.

Example Question: At what age was Jan when she was able to eat a chocolate bar on her own for the first time in many years?

Example Answer: According to the beginning of the BBC News Health report, Jan Scheuermann was 53 years when she was able to use her thoughts to control a robotic arm in order to eat a chocolate bar.

1. Why did Jan use a robotic arm to eat a chocolate bar?
2. Complete the flow chart below:

Using Thoughts to Control a Robotic Arm

- Sensors are implanted in Jan’s Brain
- Sensors pick up the ________________ of ________________ cells
- Electrical pulses are ________________ ________________
- Robotic arm moves

3. Are there any other examples of Jan’s experience? If yes, who was affected by a similar event, and why did this person require the use of a robotic arm?

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4. According to the author, these robotic arms are controlled by “thoughts.” Why is the author able to use the term thoughts?

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BONUS QUESTION
What is your opinion of this form of technology? [Questions you could answer to guide your thinking: Do you support the use of this technology? Why or why not? Are the future benefits of this technology worth the while? Why or why not?]