Reading and Annotating “A Cause Greater Than Self”  
by John McCain

1. You will be reading John McCain’s speech together as a class for the first read. Please do the following as you read it through the first time:

* Circle unfamiliar words
* Write a question mark next to anything you’re confused by or have a question about
* Draw a star or asterisk around what you believe to be the main ideas

1. When you have finished reading it as a class, go back through and define each word you circled. Write the definition right above the word or in the margins. Keep your definitions short and concise. Do this quietly and independently.
2. You will do the second reading in your table groups. Take turns reading the paragraphs to each other. Stop after each paragraph and discuss the main ideas/arguments and the supporting evidence that he provides for those ideas. Also, identify and discuss any examples of persuasion. Please do the following as you read it through the second time:

* Highlight main ideas/thesis/arguments in green
* Highlight supporting ideas or examples in yellow
* Examples of rhetoric for persuasion (tone, diction, syntax, etc) in pink

1. Annotating is more than merely highlighting. You must make notes in the margins of the text that explain what you highlighted. Label the top left of the speech “SAYING” and the top right of the speech “DOING.”
   * Use the left margin to discuss what the author is SAYING (explanations, summaries, etc)
   * Use the right margin to discuss what the author is DOING (analysis, effect, purpose, etc.)