A Thoughtful Exercise: talk to this text!

Write your thoughts as you read this excerpt. There is extra space for you to write questions, makes notes, underline, circle, draw, etc. Make this messy!

“When is one free from tests or other types of institutional press? One is free from them when one has not withdrawn from them or gone down before them. He is free when he first submits himself to the test, when he understands the test items, perhaps when he dares to break with the so-called ‘correct answer.’ He does this with fear and trembling because he knows about all the research and thought which went into the formulating of the then-accepted truth. He knows that he is a good student. He accepts his own fears, his own angers and frustrations. He accepts the emotions and feelings in others which may follow from his break with their perceived truth. He rises above the accepted answers. One is free from tests and other forms of institutional press only when one submits oneself to them and rises above them. One’s freedom from tests rests in one’s oneness, to include within one’s perceived self one’s feelings, thoughts, choices, sensitivities to others, his viscera, his muscle tension, and all types of responses. To accept all of these experiences as one’s own and then to conform to or break with an accepted answer to a test item is the only known way of being free from tests.”