MyLiveNotes guiding principles:

1. Reading does not happen for its own sake
   - Academics read for a reason, towards specific goals: to critique, revise or proof-read a document, to prepare for a discussion or a test, to summarize the document, to understand a domain by reading multiple documents.
   - Reading co-occurs with content creation in close to 90% of cases. Study notes, summaries, draft revisions.

2. Reading does not happen one **page** at a time
   - The page is an outdated notion of document separation and becomes meaningless in landscape reflowable contexts. Semantic anchors like section headings are much more useful for navigation across text and screen sizes.
   - Different parts of a document often need to be visible side by side at the same time (e.g., body of an academic paper and its reference section).

3. Reading does not happen one **document** at a time
   - Readers are often (~75% of the time) constructing an idea of a concept or domain by researching and synthesizing from multiple documents.

4. Reading does not happen one **reader** at a time
   - Users may benefit from seeing each other's annotations and work.

5. Reading does not happen on only one **device or technology**
   - Reading should be possible across a vast range of screen sizes. Paginated PDF documents have issues displaying on small screens without 2-D scrolling.
   - Stylus devices are held as the golden standard for digital annotation, but very few academic readers actually own and use them. Annotation should be possible by stylus, touch, mouse, or keyboard.

MyLiveNotes constraints:

1. MLN will draw a distinction between editing a document and annotating a document. In MLN, for most users documents will be immutable, and they can always clear away their content to see the pristine original of the document. Their annotations, summaries, notes, etc. are considered a distinct overlay. As such, proofreading contexts will not be supported.
2. The vast majority of academic reading occurs in landscape-oriented desktop contexts. MLN will support this layout first.
3. MLN will assume nothing about page width or text size: annotations will appear near their targets without relying on bitmap or pixel information.