

Group Annotation

In this activity, students will participate in a small group that includes individual expectations. Completing a group task is an important part of both learning and working environments, and thus requires some attention. It takes **skills** to achieve a goal as a group!! Besides, this particular course requires a significant amount of individual reading and thinking, which can be very isolating. I mean, all of the authors we're reading have been gone for hundreds of years! And even though online courses naturally have an individual flavor to them, people learn best when presented with a variety of intellectual tasks, some of which involve learning from and with others. ☺

Group annotation is actually quite intriguing. I have had many students tell me that they enjoyed the activity, both for the work they had to do for themselves, but also because of what they saw other students contribute. The beauty of this task is that you are only responsible for your own work, but it becomes part of a collective effort that adds up to something more...

"Why are we doing this?" you may ask.... Well, if you had to annotate an entire text by yourself, it would take a long time and you would only see your own methods. This way, you can get ideas from your group mates as well as learn from their interpretations of the material. In addition, annotation requires you to explore the *meaning* of a text, but also to examine the *methods* used to create meaning! In other words, we aren't just looking at what a story or poem means; we are also determining what rhetorical techniques are used by an author to get a point across. So, *how* a text is crafted is a big part of our exploration together. Beyond that, we are making connections between these historical documents in the context of the time period in which they were written, and how the American ideals they represent intersect with our culture today.

OK, the suspense is getting to you, I know. ☺ In group annotation, you are assigned to a small group of four or five people. Each group is required to read a particular text, which is included in your group area on our **course wiki**. Each individual is responsible for annotating the piece. The best way to clarify who did what, is to select a color and font for yourself, then use it for you own annotations throughout the piece. Just be sure to create a "key" and tell me who's who!

Each group member is responsible for including the following in his/her annotation:

1. Identifying a minimum of *five* literary or rhetorical devices.
2. Making at least *ten* comments that form connections between the text and common knowledge, ideals, personal experiences, other texts, etc.

3. Linking to **three** or more images that add to another person's understanding of key ideas in the text.
4. Linking to **two** or more multimedia clips that relate to the text's ideas in some way. These may be audio or video clips, slide shows, web pages, etc. Many students find relationships between texts and songs. 😊 Be creative, and use your search skills to locate some cool stuff!!
5. **Individual work is due on Friday, September 17, at 5:00 pm.**
6. Next weekend, finish the assignment by reviewing your group mates' annotations and adding a brief reflection at the very bottom of the assignment on the group's accomplishments as a whole. Be sure to use your font/color for your reflection so I know who wrote what....

NOTE: Before you can complete this assignment, you have to **create your wiki account and login to the course wiki site!!!** The instructions for that task are located under "Weekly Lessons, Week 2".

Once you enter the wiki, you will see the following group names listed in the left-hand navigation bar. Click on your group name to access that page and get started. 😊

Groups w/Members

Ocean	Prairie	Forest	Desert	Jungle
Keith A	Ashleigh B	John B	Amie B	Jon C
Aleisha C	Odette D	Emily D	Samantha E	Ben H
Jason J	Joy L	Jennifer M	Brandon M	Jason M
Ashley M	Kaz P	Anthony S	Abby P	Mark V

View an example of a Group Annotation assignment under "Weekly Lessons, Week 2"!!