

Annotation Notebook (50 participation points)

As we move through the semester, you will be asked to read or listen to a number of different kinds of texts. Each one will be targeted toward different discourse communities and, as such, will employ different rhetorical strategies to produce an argument. Your job is to identify these strategies and respond to the text as if you were entering into a conversation with the author or speaker.

To help you along as you practice these skills, we will discuss each text in class, with special emphasis on argumentation. When preparing for these discussions, you will carefully read or listen to the assigned text and respond to the following prompts:

- a. List and define key terms, especially if they are new to you.
- b. Who or what is the subject of the text? In other words, who or what is the writer writing about? What is the writer's relationship to that subject?
- c. What is the main question or argument that the writer is exploring? Explain it in two sentences or less.
- d. What are key points of evidence that the writer uses to explore that question or argument?
- e. Pick one interesting passage that you do not understand and bring it to class for discussion.

I have created a Google Doc for each of you so that I can keep up with and respond to your annotations. The notebook is also a space where you can ask questions about the text and journal about your reading experience. I hope that it will help facilitate productive and engaging discussion in class and help you with your writing assignments throughout the semester.

Keep in mind that the theme for this class is imitation. In other words, each writing assignment will require you to recognize and engage with the rhetorical strategies used by each author. If you have completed your Annotation Notebook with care and attention, it will be much easier to complete the writing assignments. Discussions are also worth a large portion of your participation for this class, so I advise you to take this assignment seriously.

Grading

The Annotation Notebook is worth 15% of your final grade. I will be grading it based on completion and effort, so there are no wrong answers. That said, I do expect you to complete each set of annotations thoroughly and thoughtfully.