

Annotating a Text, Rhetorical Analysis, Preparing for Discussion:

In order to analyze, you must understand what you read with great depth. That said, there are 4 things you can do to ensure you have a deeper understanding of a text.

- 1. Reread.**
- 2. Summarize.**
- 3. Look up terms or topics unfamiliar to you.**
- 4. Reference the author's background and/or the context of the text when it was created.**

Annotating a Text:

As you read, you need to make margin notes (aka. annotations) to remind you both for discussion and in the event you end up writing a paper over an article. Examining the annotations made collectively assists in conducting rhetorical analysis. When you annotate you should:

- 1. Make notes, comments of your personal thoughts, or write questions that come to mind as you read.**
- 2. Underline/ highlight words, phrases, passages, you find important.**
- 3. Label strategies and elements where they stand out to you (thesis statement, shifts in mode of writing, rhetorical devices, etc.) throughout the text.**

Rhetorical Analysis:

Rhetorical analysis is the focus of much of this course as this practice enhances your own awareness of how to create effective arguments in addition to being the focus of the AP exam you will take in May. Rhetorical analysis takes place by examining a text on 2 levels and both should be represented in your annotations, though not every element of each will be noted (as that would be painful and excessively difficult). The 2 levels are:

1. Rhetorical situation

(all elements of the rhetorical triangle, purpose, occasion, kind/stasis, exigence, central contention, appeals, medium)

2. Style, argument, strategy

(examining claims, lines of argument, representation of background information, organization, use & representation of evidence, efficacy of style choices & usage of rhetorical devices)