

## CHS Summer Reading: 2018

### ENGL 2332 Dual Credit World Literature Assignments

A summer reading assignment is a requirement of all students enrolled in Pre-AP, Dual Credit, and AP English classes. Building a bank of literary knowledge and skills, achieved through close reading, is critical to success in any advanced curriculum. Students are encouraged to annotate as they read to keep track of characters and plot and to record their own observations of the work. Guidelines and instructions for annotations may be found below.

A comprehensive exam over the readings will be administered the second week of classes.

Books \* Seniors DC 2332:

The Epic of Gilgamesh (p.33) ..... Fall Semester textbook

The Odyssey (p.178) ..... Fall Semester textbook

\*Dual Credit students are required to purchase the textbook. The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Shorter Third Edition, Vol.1 and 2. Volume 1 of the text is used for the Fall Semester (ENGL 2332), and Volume 2 of the text is used for the Spring Semester (ENGL 2333).

Note: DO NOT purchase any version other than the Shorter Third Edition! Lone Star Bookstore carries several different World Literature texts. Make sure to purchase the correct copy! Purchasing your text from Amazon may be a more reliable and economical choice.

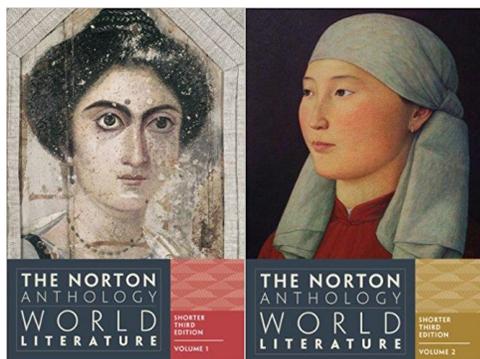
Remember, ONLY purchase the texts with the following ISBN numbers:

Volume 1

ISBN: 978-0-393-91960-8

Volume 2

ISBN: 978-0-393-91961-5



If you are renting your text, you may annotate using sticky notes, or takes notes in a journal.

# THE WRITING PROCESS Annotating a Text, from Hunter College's Reading and Writing Center:

Annotating a text, or marking the pages with notes, is an excellent, if not essential, way to make the most out of the reading you do for college courses. Annotations make it easy to find important information quickly when you look back and review a text. They help you familiarize yourself with both the content and organization of what you read. They provide a way to begin engaging with ideas and issues directly through comments, questions, associations, or other reactions that occur to you as you read. In all these ways, annotating a text makes the reading process an active one, not just background for writing assignments, but an integral first step in the writing process.

A well-annotated text will accomplish all of the following:

- clearly identify where in the text important ideas and information are located
- express the main ideas of a text
- trace the development of ideas/arguments throughout a text
- introduce a few of the reader's thoughts and reactions

Ideally, you should read a text through once before making major annotations. You may just want to circle unfamiliar vocabulary or concepts. This way, you will have a clearer idea about where major ideas and important information are in the text, and your annotating will be more efficient.

A brief description and discussion of four ways of annotating a text—highlighting/underlining, paraphrase/summary of main ideas, descriptive outline, and comments/responses—and a sample annotated text follow:

## HIGHLIGHTING/UNDERLINING

Highlighting or underlining key words and phrases or major ideas is the most common form of annotating texts. Many people use this method to make it easier to review material, especially for exams. Highlighting is also a good way of picking out specific language within a text that you may want to cite or quote in a piece of writing. However, over-reliance on highlighting is unwise for two reasons. First, there is a tendency to highlight more information than necessary, especially when done on a first reading. Second, highlighting is the least active form of annotating. Instead of being a way to begin thinking and interacting with ideas in texts, highlighting can become a postponement of that process. On the other hand, highlighting is a useful way of marking parts of a text that you want to make notes about. And it's a good idea to highlight the words or phrases of a text that are referred to by your other annotations.

## PARAPHRASE/SUMMARY OF MAIN IDEAS

Going beyond locating important ideas to being able to capture their meaning through paraphrase is a way of solidifying your understanding of these ideas. It's also excellent preparation for any writing you may have to do based on your reading. A series of brief notes in the margins beside important ideas gives you a handy summary right on the pages of the text itself, and if you can take the substance of a sentence or paragraph and condense it into a few words, you should have little trouble clearly demonstrating your understanding of the ideas in question in your own writing.

## DESCRIPTIVE OUTLINE

A descriptive outline shows the organization of a piece of writing, breaking it down to show where ideas are introduced and where they are developed. A descriptive outline allows you to see not only where the main ideas are but also where the details, facts, explanations, and other kinds of support for those ideas are located. A descriptive outline will focus on the function of individual paragraphs or sections within a text. These functions might include any of the following:

- summarizing a topic/argument/etc.
- introducing an idea
- adding explanation

- giving examples
- providing factual evidence
- expanding or limiting the idea
- considering an opposing view
- dismissing a contrary view
- creating a transition
- stating a conclusion

This list is hardly exhaustive and it's important to recognize that several of these functions may be repeated within a text, particularly ones that contain more than one major idea. Making a descriptive outline allows you to follow the construction of the writer's argument and/or the process of his/her thinking. It helps identify which parts of the text work together and how they do so. **COMMENTS/RESPONSES**

You can use annotation to go beyond understanding a text's meaning and organization by noting your reactions—agreement/disagreement, questions, related personal experience, connection to ideas from other texts, class discussions, etc. This is an excellent way to begin formulating your own ideas for writing assignments based on the text or on any of the ideas it contains.

Dr. Murray and Anna C. Rockowitz Writing Center, Hunter College, City University of New York

**FOR A LOOK AT SAMPLE ANNOTATIONS, USE THIS LINK:**

**<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/handouts/the-writing-process-1/invention/Annotating-a-Text>**