Reading Annotation and Discussion

CODE120: Research Team I



Assignment Summary

One of the most important skills for a college-level reader is to learn how to annotate texts as you read so that you understand what you've read and are prepared for class with quotations, comments, and questions for class discussion. For each of the chapters we read in *Our Common Ground*, you will complete a two-part assignment.

1. You will annotate the text directly in our course's Manifold Reading Group and engage with your classmates' annotations before we meet.
2. You will complete the questions for further reflection boxes in each chapter by adding your answers as annotations on Manifold.

Objectives

By completing this recurring assignment, you will be able to:

- ➔ Practice close reading by selecting and analyzing passages in a way that helps you and your classmates understand the text's key concepts and their importance for work.
- ➔ Generate genuine, open-ended interpretive questions.
- ➔ Build connections between the current reading, earlier course material, and outside contexts.
- ➔ Read and respond critically and generously to classmates' interpretations, extending or complicating their ideas rather than simply agreeing.

What to Post Each Cycle

Each time an annotation assignment is due, post the following directly on the assigned reading in our Reading Group:

- ➔ **Reflection Question Annotations:** Respond to all discussion questions in the chapter in the form of an annotation (2-3 sentences per question).
- ➔ **1 Quote + Analysis annotation:** highlight a passage and annotate it with a short analysis (2–4 sentences) of what the passage does or means and why it matters.
- ➔ **1 Question annotation:** an open-ended, discussion-worthy question tied to a specific passage. Avoid yes/no or simple fact-recall questions.
- ➔ **1 Comment/Connection annotation:** a note connecting the passage to another part of the text, an earlier reading, an outside context, or your own field/experience.
- ➔ **2 Replies to classmates:** substantive responses to at least two different students' annotations. A reply should add a complication, an example, or an alternative reading..

In addition to discussion questions, that's a minimum of 5 total posts per cycle: 3 original annotations plus 2 peer replies. You're welcome to do more.

Timing

Comment threads only work if annotations go up early enough for classmates to respond, and if replies are spread across the week. Each cycle follows this rhythm:

Phase	Deadline	What happens
1. Read & Annotate	2 days before class, no later than 11:59 pm	Post all original annotations (quotes + analysis, question, comment) directly in the text, tagged to our course reading group.
2. Discuss	From the reading deadline to class time	Read classmates' annotations in Notes + Comments and reply to at least 2 different students.
3. Arrive Ready	class time	Come to class ready to speak about which annotation sparked the most discussion and why.

Using Manifold

A quick reference before your first annotation cycle:

1. **Create a Reader account.** You must be registered and logged in to annotate; you cannot annotate anonymously or without an account. Create your account using your SIUE user id and password.
2. **Join our course Reading Group.** Visit our reading group page to join our private group. Our annotations are visible only to members of this group, not the public.
3. **Confirm your Reading Group before you annotate.** Highlight a passage, and a pop-up menu will appear with four options: Share, Annotate, Highlight, and Current Group. Click Current Group and select our course group before you start annotating. If you skip this step, your annotation may post to the wrong group and won't count.
4. **Add your annotation.** With the passage highlighted, click Annotate to write a new comment on that passage, or Reply on an existing annotation to respond to a classmate.
5. **Find everyone's annotations in one place.** On our Reading Group's home page, use the Notes + Comments block and select the assigned Text from the dropdown to see the full class discussion — this is the easiest way to find two classmates' annotations to reply to.
6. **Track your own work.** Click the notepad icon in the reading view (or Profile → My Notes + Comments) to see everything you've personally annotated or highlighted across a Text.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	A Proficient Annotation Set Will...	A Developing Annotation Set Will...	An Annotation Set Still in Need of Work Will...
Reflection Questions	Answers to reflection questions are substantive and	Answers to reflection questions are present and demonstrate	All or some of the answers to reflection questions are missing

Criteria	A Proficient Annotation Set Will...	A Developing Annotation Set Will...	An Annotation Set Still in Need of Work Will...
	demonstrate deep engagement with the text	some engagement with the text	
Quote + Analysis annotations	Two quote annotations reference a passage that is important for the text's argument or that helps student further understand a critical concept for the research team	Passages are present but analysis mostly summarizes or restates the quote without new interpretation	Missing, or quote given with no analysis
Critical Questions	Question is open-ended, arises specifically from the passage annotated, and has potential to drive class discussion	Question is closed or only loosely tied to passage	Question is missing
Reading Comments/ Connections	Makes a substantive connection to another part of the text, another reading, or a context important for research team's work	Makes a relevant connection, but underdeveloped or asserted without support	Comment is missing
Classmate Engagement	Both replies engage a different classmate's annotation, add a new idea, and complicate or extend the point	Only one qualifying reply, or replies are surface-level ("great point!")	Not have enough media or media do not relate well to the text
Platform Use and Timelines	All annotations correctly tagged to the course reading group; original annotations posted by the first deadline; replies posted within the discussion window	Annotations posted late enough, or clustered enough, that peer discussion isn't realistically possible	Annotations missing, posted outside the Reading Group, or not visible to the group