hypothes.is

Collaborative Annotation with Hypothesis

Are your students understanding your assigned readings?

It is difficult to figure out if students are reading the required assignments and synthesizing the information appropriately. One method used in the past, when we had to use textbooks and paper handouts in our classes as students, was to use a ==yellow highlighter== to call attention to important sections in the reading. We also made notes in the margins as we were going through the readings to help us remember important things. Things have changed now that we are in a digital world. Since most resources are in a digital format, a digital annotation tool became necessary. For this task we recommend Hypothesis.

What is Hypothesis?

Hypothesis is open-source software that allows the highlight of content or make digital annotations as comments about statements made in web-accessible content or electronic pdf documents. With Hypothesis, your students can annotate digital content similar to the way we took notes on hard copies of handouts and textbooks.
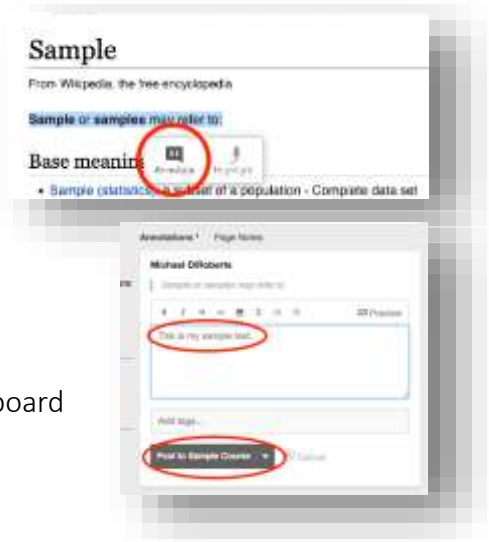
The benefits to the instructor:

* Help students develop their digital literacy skills through group reading and collaborative page annotation.
* Create graded assignments where Instructors can see the quantity and quality of student responses.
* Create Hypothesis assignments within Blackboard without the need to create an account.
* Create Hypothesis assignments by sharing a PDF or a public website.

Things to know:

* Students access a Hypothesis assignment directly from their Bb course.
* All comments are shared only with the members of the course.
* Students digitally highlight ideas or important text passages to **privately** separate them from the surrounding text.

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- Students make digital annotations (comments to digital content) **openly** in the course for their peers and instructor to see. Course annotations are visible to everyone.
- Private comments made by a student are invisible to the instructor.
- It is a collaborative activity where students offer explanations, comments, or opinions to the author's words.
- Annotating with Hypothesis helps students to think critically about the texts they are reading.
- Students work collaboratively when commenting on a single document through commenting and replies.
- Instructors create graded or ungraded Hypothesis assignments in Blackboard that are directly tied to the gradebook.
- Shared PDF documents must be in Optical Character Recognition (OCR) format.

What is OCR?
- "Optical Character Recognition." It is a technology that recognizes text within a digital image.
- To convert an image to text, open with Adobe Acrobat Professional. Edit>Edit Text & Images.

How to create a Hypothes.is assignment Using a Web page, Web Document, or PDF.
- Identify a website or public pdf document on the Internet and copy the URL. If you are sharing your own PDF document, upload it to the Blackboard content collection or OneDrive.
- Create and Submit a Hypothesis assignment in Blackboard: Build Content>Hypothesis.
- Locate the Hypothesis assignment, click to open it, and select one of the options to build the assignment.
    o Enter URL of web page or PDF
    o Select PDF from Blackboard
    o Select PDF from Google Drive
    o Select PDF from OneDrive
- Enter Student Preview to review your post.

Links to Resources That Will Help You Get Started Right Away!

- How to set up Hypothesis readings in Blackboard
- How to grade Hypothesis annotations in Blackboard
- A student guide to Hypothesis in Blackboard
- An Illustrated Taxonomy of Annotation Types:

- Annotation etiquette for students
- An Illustrated Guide to Annotation Types
- Annotation Tips for Students
- Using images, links, and videos in annotations

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