

Annotating Essays

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1) Title, author, original publication
- 2) Purpose, audience, and enthymeme(s)
- 3) Central argument and any implied arguments
- 4) Stages of thought (points on which the central argument rest)
- 5) Structural features: Two elements
- 6) Rhetorical features: Three elements
- 7) Stylistic features: Three elements
- 8) One evaluative statement

WHAT I WANT

- 1) What's it called, who wrote it, and where was it originally published.
- 2) Why was this written? For whom? What assumptions does the author make about the audience's values?
- 3) What is the author's stated position? What is his unstated position?
- 4) What are the subpoints the author develops to prove his argument?
- 5) Two observations regarding the essay's structure. How does the author arrange his ideas? Why?
- 6) Three observations regarding the essay's persuasive elements. How does the author manipulate ethos, pathos, and logos? Why?
- 7) Three observations regarding the essay's style. What schemes and tropes does the author employ? Why?
- 8) One statement evaluating the effectiveness of the essay, replete with rationale.

Non-fiction essays offer an incredibly adaptable form—they can be personal or remote, didactic or reflective, somber or satiric. They are infinitely malleable; some of the greatest writers of this or any century delight in the purposeful manipulation of stylistic and rhetorical choices. As you read essays from the textbook, you will be required to annotate according to a regular formula. This will be the basis for subsequent class discussions and the teacher reserves the right to collect these annotations at any time. **Remember, intelligent observations come in sentence form!**