Engaging the Text: Social Annotation in the Classroom
Michele Ren & Kali Smith
Department of English, Radford University, Virginia 24142

What is Social Annotation?
“Social annotation involves commenting on a discourse in an online collaborative environment. Together, students support one another in understanding or deepen their understanding of the discourse (text, video, or image). They can benefit from reading the multiple viewpoints of their peers” (Vanier College, 2022).

Pros & Cons

Intro courses
Pros
✓ All students have at least looked at the text before any class discussion/activities begin
✓ Easy to grade
✓ More (authentic) engagement than discussion board posts
✓ Empowers students/centers student interpretations
✓ Less plagiarism
✓ No cost to students

Cons
o Loss of class time
o Less rigorous than reading logs/journals
o Students may just be reading enough of the text to comment on it
o Text selection is limited

Upper Level & Graduate Courses
Pros
✓ I can plan classes based on what students are noticing/not noticing in the text
✓ Easy to grade
✓ More (authentic) engagement than discussion board posts
✓ Empowers students/centers student interpretations
✓ No cost to students

Cons
o Students may just be reading enough of the text to comment
o Less rigorous than reading logs/journals
o Text selection is limited

References


Sample Prompts

Please Scan QR with phone camera or QR reader App to see sample prompts

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