Engaging the Text: Social Annotation in the Classroom

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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).

Sample Prompts

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

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

Upper Level & Graduate Courses

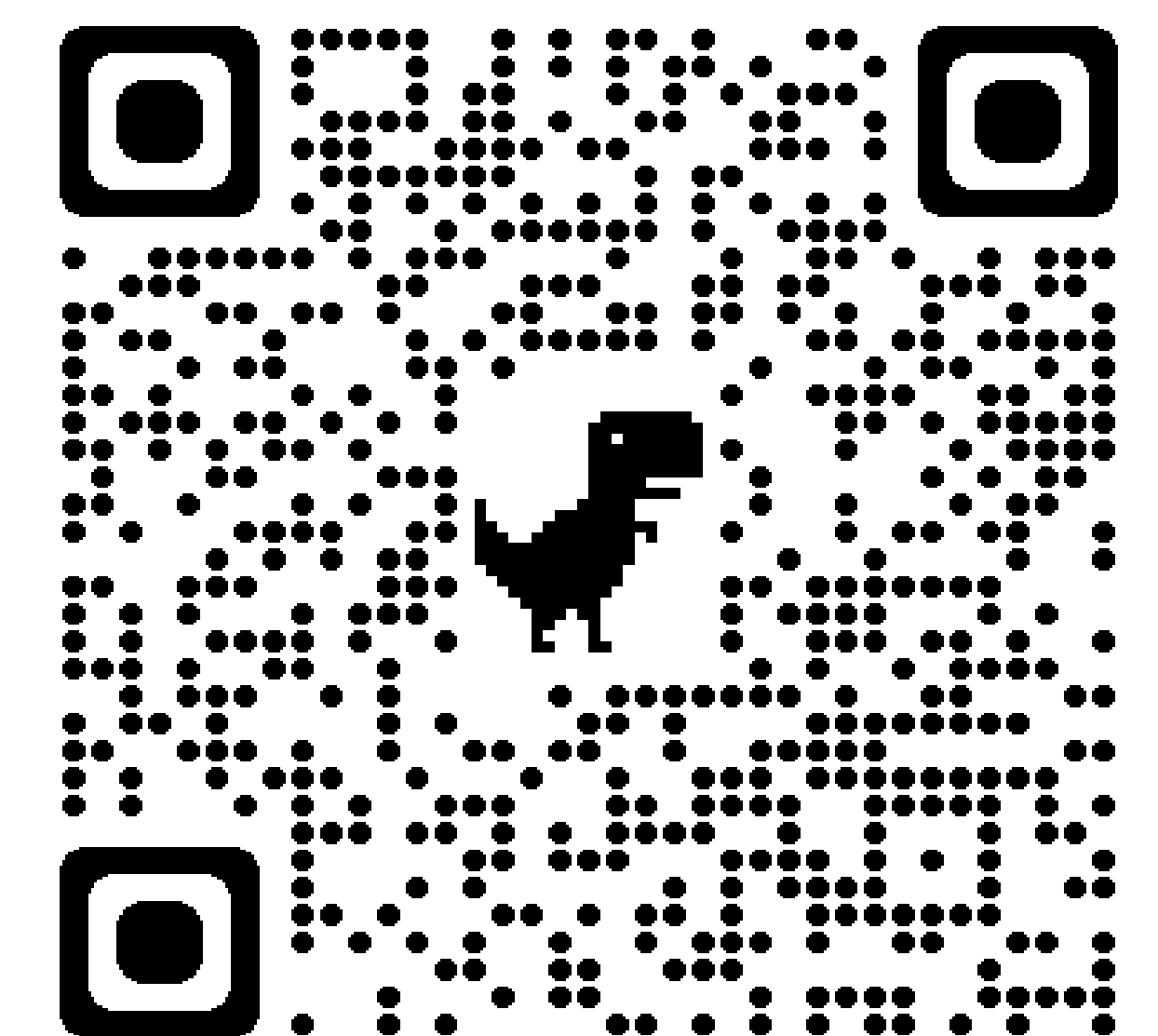**Pros**
✓ I can plan classes based on what students are noticing/not noticing in the text
✓ Easy to grade
✓ More (authentic) engagement than discussion board posts
✓ Empowers students /centers student interpretations
✓ No cost to students

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

Sample Annotations

> **Kali Smith** Jan 23, 2022 ✓
> This connects really well with the prior speech from her we listened to. "For most of history, anonymous was a woman".

> **Casey Cockrum** Jan 20, 2022 ✓
> Reminds me of the evolution of progress and the current arguments posed again the necessity of the current feminist movement.

> **Michele Ren** Jan 29, 2022
> Woolf is writing in a time when feminism was supposedly "dead" and unnecessary because the right to vote had been won. A sustained movement won't be revived for another 32 years.

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References

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