Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 10 Honors

**A Guide to Rhetorical Annotations**

“Marking and highlighting a text is like having a conversation with a book – it allows you to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark events and passages you want to revisit. Annotating is a permanent record of your intellectual conversation with the text.”

*- Laying the foundation: A Resource and Planning Guide for Pre-AP English*

Annotating a Text, Rhetorical Analysis, Preparing for Discussion:

In order to analyze, you must understand what you read with great depth. That said, there are 4 things you can do to ensure you have a deeper understanding of a text.

1. Reread.

2. Summarize.

3. Look up terms or topics unfamiliar to you.

4. Reference the author's background and/or the context of the text when it was created.

Annotating a Text:

As you read, you need to make margin notes (a.k.a. annotations) to remind you both for discussion and in the event you end up writing a paper over an article. Examining the annotations made collectively assists in conducting rhetorical analysis. When you annotate you should:

1. Make notes, comments of your personal thoughts, or write questions that come to mind as you read.

2. Underline/ highlight words, phrases, passages, you find important and briefly explain how they may reflect or connect to the author’s purpose

3. Label strategies and elements where they stand out to you (thesis statement, shifts in mode of writing, rhetorical devices, etc.) throughout the text.

Rhetorical Analysis:

Rhetorical analysis is the focus of much of this course as this practice enhances your own awareness of how to create effective arguments in addition to being the focus of the AP exam you will inevitably take. Rhetorical analysis takes place by examining a text on two levels and both should be represented in your annotations, though not every element of each will be noted (as that would be painful and excessively difficult). The two levels are:

1. **Rhetorical situation** (all elements of the rhetorical triangle, purpose, occasion, mode, appeals)
2. **Style, argument, strategy** (examining claims, lines of argument, representation of background information, organization, use & representation of evidence, efficacy of style choices & usage of rhetorical devices)

As you work with your text, think about all the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. What follows are some suggestions that will help with annotating.

Plan on reading most passages, if not everything, twice. The first time, read for overall meaning and impressions. The second time, read more carefully. Mark ideas, new vocabulary, etc.

Begin to annotate. Use a pen, pencil, post-it notes, or a highlighter (although use it sparingly).

\*Summarize important ideas in your own words.

\*Add examples from real life, other books, TV, movies, and so forth.

\*Define words that are new to you.

\*Mark passages that you find confusing with a ???

\*Write questions that you might have for later discussion in class.

\*Comment on the actions or development of characters.

\*Comment on things that intrigue, impress, surprise, disturb, etc.

\*Note how the author uses language. A list of possible literary devices is attached.

\*Feel free to draw picture when a visual connection is appropriate

\*Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs used in the passage