



Annotating a Text

Style and Syntax



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Grade Level	9th – 12th Grade	Time Frame	100 minutes
Subject	English/Language Arts	Duration	1-2 class period(s)
Course	A.P. Language and Composition, American Literature		

Essential Question

How does an author's writing style give meaning to a text?

Summary

Annotating a text allows students to process information about an author's purpose and point of view. In this lesson, students will learn techniques for analyzing a text to create an argumentative paragraph related to an author's style. This lesson may be adapted to fit any text with a particular style and/or features that teachers would like students to analyze. While this lesson is currently aligned only to 10th-grade standards, it would be appropriate to teach in grades 9 through 12, adjusting standards as needed.

Snapshot

Engage

Students complete a one-sentence quick-write exercise, using thematically related words from a provided word bank.

Explore

Students are provided with a text containing strong stylistic features, including satire and hyperbole. Then, students are provided with a reading prompt and read the text independently or with a partner, without making any marks.

Explain

Model an annotation strategy on a document camera, walking students through the thought process out loud as the text is marked.

Extend

Students continue marking the text (or targeted passages of the text) independently.

Evaluate

Students revise their quick-write sentences to reflect a new meaning uncovered in the text. Finally, students write a claim, evidence, reasoning paragraph to reflect on the essential question.

Standards

Oklahoma Academic Standards: English Language Arts (Grade 9)

- 9.2.R.1:** Summarize the main ideas and paraphrase significant parts of increasingly complex texts.
- 9.3.R.4:** Evaluate how literary devices impact theme, mood, and/or tone, using textual evidence:
 - figurative language (i.e., simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, symbolism)
 - sound devices (i.e., onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance)
 - irony (i.e., verbal, situational, dramatic)
- 9.3.W.2:** Compose informative essays, reports, or technical writing that:
 - objectively introduce and develop topics
 - include a defensible thesis
 - incorporate evidence (e.g., specific facts, details, charts and graphs, data)
 - maintain an organized structure
 - use sentence variety and word choice to create clarity and concision
 - establish and maintain a formal style
 - emulate literary devices from mentor texts

Attachments

- [Annotated Text Poster—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow Sample Responses—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow Word Bank—Annotating a Text - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow Word Bank—Annotating a Text - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow Word Bank—Annotating a Text.docx](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow Word Bank—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow—Annotating a Text - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow—Annotating a Text - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow—Annotating a Text.docx](#)
- [Dashing Through the Snow—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Don't Box Me In Sample Responses—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Don't Box Me In Word Bank—Annotating a Text - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Don't Box Me In Word Bank—Annotating a Text - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Don't Box Me In Word Bank—Annotating a Text.docx](#)
- [Don't Box Me In Word Bank—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Don't Box Me In—Annotating a Text - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Don't Box Me In—Annotating a Text - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Don't Box Me In—Annotating a Text.docx](#)
- [Don't Box Me In—Annotating a Text.pdf](#)
- [Lesson Slides—Annotating a Text.pptx](#)

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Annotated Text Poster (attached; optional 1 per student)
- Dashing Through the Snow or Don't Box Me In by Dave Barry (attached; 1 per student)
- Dashing Through the Snow Word Bank (attached; two per page; optional 1 per student)
- Dashing Through the Snow Teacher Key (attached)
- Don't Box Me In Word Bank (attached; two per page; optional 1 per student)
- Don't Box Me In Teacher Key (attached)
- Document camera/projector
- Dry erase document holders
- Dry erase markers
- Pens/pencils

- Highlighters
- Paper

Engage

Teacher's Note

The slides for this lesson contain content for both articles **Dashing Through the Snow** and **Don't Box Me In** by Dave Barry. Use the slides that match the article you have selected to work with. Note that the other article can be used for review or to check for understanding at a later time.

Slides 1–2 from the attached **Lesson Slides** are introductory slides to use as needed.

Display **slides 3–4**. On the board where learning objectives are posted, or by reading aloud, pose the essential question of the lesson: *How does an author's writing style give meaning to a text?* Explain to students that essential questions are very broad and cannot be answered immediately. Additionally, explain that students will be able to confidently answer the essential question by the end of the lesson.

Display **slide 5** or **6** depending on which article you chose to use. In order to help students access their prior knowledge, the slide provides students with a word bank of 5-10 keywords focused around a central theme in the text. Provide the attached **Word Bank** handout for the article you are using. Have students use this to write their sentences in the activities throughout the lesson.

Allow 5 minutes for each student to write a sentence containing two or more of the words from the Word Bank. Students may include as many additional words as necessary to complete their thoughts. Each student's sentence should be completely unique, depending on the connections perceived among the words. Make sure that students know a word form can be altered to make sense in the construction of their sentences. For example, the word "moving" could be changed to "move."

Students should come back to these sentences at the end of the lesson.

Virtual Learning

If the lesson is virtual, you may choose to have students write sentences in the chatbox or a Google Doc.

Explore

Display **slide 7**. Hand out copies of the Dave Barry article you plan to use. Based on the title, students should predict the content of the article. Predictions should be written next to the title on each student's handout. Allow students a moment to make a prediction based on the title of the article. Ask a few students to share out their predictions.

Display **slide 8** or **9** based on the article you are using. Write a prediction, or a version of what was shared in class, on the model copy for students to see.

Tech Options

You could annotate the article using the annotation tool in PowerPoint Present Mode or through Google Docs if a document camera is not available. The annotation feature in PowerPoint allows you, the presenter, to draw with your mouse during a presentation. You can do this by starting a presentation in Slide Show mode. After that, simply Right-click, go to Pointer Options and click Pen.

Display **slide 10**. Have students number each paragraph on their own copy of the text. A quick check can be made to see if all students have identical numbers by asking the class to shout out the first three words of each paragraph as you model how to number them using the displayed version of the article.

Display **slide 11**. Next, provide a reading prompt to provide students with a focus while reading. "How does Barry use exaggeration to communicate his message?" Students should copy the question onto their copy of the article. Students then read through the text one time with an [Elbow Partner](#), or as a whole class, without marking anything. Students should discuss their answers to the question with their partner.

Virtual Option

If the lesson is virtual, consider providing students a copy of the article through Google Docs.

Explain

Display **slide 12** and go over expectations for annotating. Distribute copies, post or use **slide 13** to share the **Annotated Text** poster.

ANNOTATING A TEXT

How to mark the text:

- Highlight examples of the targeted literary device and write the meanings in the margin
- Circle key terms, repeated words, or examples of strong diction
- Underline main ideas and summarize them in the margins
- Draw arrows to label connections noticed in the text
- Write questions in the margins next to sections that are unclear or cause the reader to wonder something

It was a pleasure to burn.
 It was a special pleasure to see things blacken and changed. With the brass nozzle in his fists, with this great python spitting its venomous kerosene upon the world, the blood pounded in his head, and his hands were the hands of some amazing conductor playing all the symphonies of blazing and burning to bring down the tatters and charcoal ruins of history. With his symbolic helmet numbered 451 on his stolid head and his eyes all orange flame with the thought of what came next, he flicked the igniter and the case jumped up in a gorging fire that burned the evening sky red and yellow and black. He strode in a warm of firelines. He wanted above all, like the old joke, to thove a marshmallow on a stick in the furnace, while the rasping pigeon-winged books died on the porch and lawn of the house. While the books went up in sparkling whirs and blew away on a wind turned dark with burning.
 Montage grinned the feroce grip of all men singed and driven back by flame.
 He knew that when he returned to the firehouse, he might wink at himself, a minstrel man, bum-bucked in the mirror.

If you hand out copies, ask students to write “hyperbole” next to “How to Mark the Text,” so they know on which literary device they are to focus. Use the poster as a reference to explicitly teach annotating the first two paragraphs either on the document camera while students mark their own copies or using the text on **slide 14** or **15** depending on the article you are using. Explain to students the value of annotating texts. For students that are new to annotation or need more support, you should model annotating more of the paragraphs as a class, but not the whole article. If guidance is needed, see the attached **Dashing Through the Snow Sample Responses** or **Don’t Box Me In Sample Responses**. Annotations will vary depending on the connections you and students find in the text.

Tech Option

There are tools in PowerPoint Present Mode which allow for annotation if a document camera is not available. Slides 14 and 15 are included if you would like to annotate within the PowerPoint presentation. You could also use Google Docs to annotate the document.

How to mark the text:

- Highlight examples of hyperbole (exaggeration) and write the meanings in the margin
- Circle key terms, repeated words, or examples of strong diction
- Underline main ideas and summarize them in the margins
- Draw arrows to label connections noticed in the text
- Write questions in the margins next to sections that are unclear or cause the reader to wonder about something

Virtual Option

If the lesson is virtual, the annotation activity can be completed using Google Docs.

The remaining paragraphs may be marked independently or as a class. If you wish to narrow the focus, students may mark only a specific paragraph or a few paragraphs that are central to the text. Provide enough time for everyone to finish marking the text.

Extend

Teacher's Note

Teachers, view the video [Quick as a Bee PD - Episode 17: 30-Second Expert](#) before class. Familiarize yourself with the strategy, then review the steps for the [30-Second Expert](#) strategy with students. If you prefer to share the video with students, it is included in the slide show on **slide 16**. There is also a link to handouts for the 30-Second Expert strategy included under the video on YouTube.

Embedded video

https://youtube.com/watch?v=_151JdgEJ2g

Display **slide 17**. "30-Second Expert" Strategy.

In pairs, have students take turns as the speaker and as the listener. The speakers should share how annotation helps them analyze the text and determine the author's purpose and point of view. Each student has only 30 seconds to share. The speaker starts out by stating, "I am an expert on this topic because I know..." When the speaker has finished, the listener should say, "According to (partner's name)," then summarize what their partner just shared. The listener should then ask, "Did I get that right?" After the speaker clears up any misconceptions, each student should record any new information gained on their paper. Students then reverse the roles of speaker and listener and go through the process again.

This shows students how to summarize key information gleaned from the annotation process and practice speaking/listening skills by summarizing what their partner says.

Virtual Options

If the lesson is virtual, students could be placed in breakout rooms to complete the 30-second Expert strategy. Alternatively, students could record videos to a Padlet to complete the strategy.

Call on students to share out insights added to their annotations during the strategies used in their 30-Second Expert activity. If there are important features of the text that students did not notice, give students hints about annotations that are still needed. Model on the document camera or Google Docs as necessary.

Evaluate

Display **slide 18** or **19** depending on the article you are using. Turn students' attention back to the vocabulary word bank and sentences written at the very beginning of the lesson. Students keep their annotated articles in front of them, and either revise or write completely new sentences using the vocabulary. The goal is for students to write sentences that make connections between the words in the Word Bank. Allow students to use the same words they used the first time, add more of the words, or pick a totally new set of words from the choices available. Ask students to reflect on the changes in their sentences and how annotating a text changed your perspective? Have them add their response to the Word Bank page.

Virtual Option

If the lesson is virtual, students could compose their responses using Google Docs.

Display **slide 20**. Have students share final answers to this question as an [Exit Ticket](#): *How do writers use exaggeration to communicate messages in creative and interesting ways?*

Virtual Option

Padlet responses could be an alternative for sharing in a virtual lesson.

Resources

- Barry, D. (1991). Don't Box Me In. *Dave Barry Talks Back*. Crown Publishers.
- Barry, D. (1997). Dashing through the snow. *Dave Barry is From Mars and Venus*. Crown Publishers.
- CUSD50 Instructional Coaching. (2019, December 11). *Quick as a Bee PD - Episode 17: 30-Second Expert* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=151JdgEJ2g>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). 30-Second Expert. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/1048>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Bell Ringers and Exit Tickets. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/125>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). CER. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/156>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Elbow Partners. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/116>
- K20 center. (n.d.). Padlet. Tech Tools. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/tech-tool/1077>
- National Math and Science Initiative. (2014). "Language: 2-day institute." Retrieved from "http://phelpsenGLISH.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/3/4/12344451/ap_language_complete_two-day_materials_a.pdf