Brainstorming Learning Activities with the Hypothes.is Tool in Blackboard

Note: Technically, while one could annotate anything, there are copyright issues to consider. Copyright and Fair Use standards do not allow for prolific scanning of book chapters or other print resources, plugging the pdfs into a Google Drive Folder, and linking that to Hypothes.is. Check your institution's policies on Copyright and Fair Use.

Additionally, for a pdf to work with Hypothes.is, it must be tagged and searchable, not just a scanned image of a book chapter or article. So, one must first make the pdf searchable with Adobe Acrobat.

Several learning management systems support Hypothes.is as an LTI, including Blackboard, Canvas, Brightspace, and Moodle. With LMS integration, learners enjoy the safety of social annotations in a closed group. Instructors AND students can use Hypothes.is on their browsers and take their annotations to a new level.

- **Class Discussions Regarding Assigned Readings**--Instructors need not have learners annotate ALL the readings in a unit; they might assign one or two readings for annotating (public domain URLs)
- **Group Work**--Learners share their project notes and outlines, research, and even PowerPoint presentations (saved as pdfs) and provide feedback (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Team Debate/Rhetorical Exercise**--Practice debating skills or rhetorical analysis right in a source, maybe a transcript of a political speech or MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Peer Review** or **Peer Workshop**--Learners share papers/labs/proposals/speech outlines with peers and follow review/workshop protocols to provide constructive and specific feedback SPECIFICALLY WHERE it is needed (pdf via Google Drive)
- **Formative Assessment**--Learners share drafts with instructor, who provides feedback on drafts for papers/labs/proposals/speech outlines. This could even take on the feel of a conference, with instructor and learner exchanging comments (pdf via Google Drive)
- **Math Problems/Equations--**Post a link to a problem for learners to consider and solve together. The Hypothes.is annotation tool has a basic math typsetting function (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Poetry Workshop**--Learners post their poems on a Google Drive and provide peer feedback (pdf via Google Drive)
- **Peer Feedback on YouTube Presentations**--These could be speeches for Communication courses, poetry readings, or laboratory demonstrations. As peers watch, they can add comments to the page (public domain URLs-- YouTube videos should be shared as "unlisted" to retain user privacy)

- **Wikipedia edit-a-thon**--Instructors who plan on running an edit-a-thon could use this tool to prepare for or mimic an edit-a-thon (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **What is a Scholarly Source?**--Bring in resources and provide prompts for determining if they are scholarly sources (public domain URLs)
- **Model Critical Reading**--Instructor annotates a text and prompts learners to respond
- **How to Read Like a Historian**--Instructors can annotate a text/primary source and model "reading" like a historian (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Annotate Digitalized Primary Sources**--Learners in history courses or any course that looks at primary sources can conduct critical analysis (public domain URLs)
- **You Write the Quiz/Exam**--Learners draft questions as if they were writing the exam (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Book Club**--Populate the text with questions/prompts and discuss a book as you would in a book club (public domain URLs)
- **Critique an Advertisement/Website**--Learners in business and/or marketing can interact right in the medium, critiquing ads, memos, website, and other items (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **The Art of Looking at Art**--Learners can view images from online collections for general education humanities and art courses and practice this skill with peers (public domain URLs)
- **Formal Art Analysis**--For learners in Art History or other Art courses to do formal analysis on artwork (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **The Play is the Thing**--Learners analyze a play right in the text. Or, have them do a close reading and discussion for performance prep (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Annotated Bibliography**--With Hypothes.is, learners might better understand what it means to produce an annotated bib (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **Journaling**--Outside of the social annotations in Blackboard, learners might use Hypothes.is in their browsers to work on more personal responses to prepare themselves for projects or class discussions (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive/Use the "Paste a Link" function via the Hypothes.is homepage)
- **Check Your Understanding**--Rather than the old-fashioned reading quiz or "did you do the reading" discussion board posting, learners can annotate readings. Instructors can assign prompts or roles (or both) to guide the reading (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)
- **How to (or How NOT to) write** a Book Review, Research Proposal, Discussion Posting, Blog, Grant, IRB Proposal, Essay, Research Paper, Field Notes, Field Experience, Teaching Philosophy of Teaching, etc.--Instructors can provide samples (with permission and without student information) of these texts, and then instructor and learners can point out what meets standards and why, where to improve, and what is not meeting standards and why not (public domain URLs/pdf via Google Drive)