

Rubric for Annotations

5: The text is extensively highlighted or underlined with many margin notes in addition to shorthand notations. The annotations demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered the text's meaning. The margin notes serve as an abbreviated outline of what the text says and what the reader thinks about it.

4: The text is extensively highlighted or underlined with fewer margin notes compared to the most carefully considered readings. Shorthand notations are present. The annotations that are present demonstrate that the student has carefully read and considered

3: The text is less extensively highlighted or underlined with some margin notes and shorthand markings. The annotations demonstrate a less thorough reading of the work than the top two ratings.

2: The text is highlighted or underlined and the student uses shorthand markings. There are virtually no margin notes; consequently, it is impossible to determine how thorough the reading of the text has been.

1: Only shorthand margin notations are used **or** part of the text is unmarked **or** there are so few notations overall that the text may not have been read completely.

0: The text is unmarked

*When translated to a grade, each quality score will have a multiplier of ten.

Directions for Dialectical Journals

What is a Dialectical Journal? Simply put, a dialectical journal is merely a double entry journal; the difference between a dialectical journal and a double entry journal is that, while a double entry journal requires the reader merely to give a gut reaction (called "reader response") to passages throughout a text, a dialectical journal requires interpretation and analysis. The purpose of such a journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain their significance. It should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read. It is a way to take notes on what is read using the actual text. In effect, you will be holding a discussion with yourself on key points, asking questions, and reacting to particular phrases that drew your attention.

How to Set Up Your Dialectical Journal: Create a chart with two columns. On the left hand side, record quotations or passages that seem significant to the author's purpose or to the effect that the author is trying to achieve. On the right hand side of the chart, interpret / analyze the quotation or passage you recorded. These entries may include genuine questions regarding—or reactions to—plot, characterization, relationships, or setting. You may also include personal reflections on the text or connections that you have been able to make between what is happening in the work and your own experiences. Further, you may want to comment on the literary qualities of the work, including those of descriptive language, metaphors, diction, plot development, characterization, or predictability. Finally, you may wish to interpret what the author is trying to say in a particular passage.

Length/Scope: There is no specific number of entries required for this assignment. A thorough, but not excessive, dialectical journal will be around 1,800-2,000 words (about 8-10 sides of college-ruled paper, or 6-7 pages of Times New Roman 12 point, double-spaced type).

Rubric for Dialectical Journals

Category	A	B	C	D/F
Left: Selection of detail	Selected passages are detailed, complex, and meaningful; reflect a variety of plot and quotation selections	Selected passages are meaningful; include both plot and quote selections	Selected passages include few meaningful details	Selected passages have little or no apparent significance or meaning
Left and Right: Literary Elements	Includes in-depth discussion of literary elements; addresses how elements such as tone, diction, organization and context contribute to purpose and meaning	Includes discussion literary elements; does not completely address how they contribute to meaning	Includes some identification of literary elements; has virtually no discussion of contribution to meaning	Includes few literary elements; has virtually no discussion of contribution to meaning
Right: Interpretation and commentary	Commentary provides thoughtful insight and connection to themes (avoids clichés)	Commentary intelligently addresses thematic connections	Commentary is vague and/or unsupported with little connection to theme	Commentary involves paraphrase or plot summary
Right: Personal connections and questions	Insightful personal connections and thought-provoking questions	Appropriate personal connections and pertinent questions	Limited personal connections and few or obvious questions	Limited personal connection and no good questions
Overall Effect: Appearance	Organized and professional	Neat and easily legible	Not easily legible	Sloppy and disorganized
Overall Effect: Coverage of text and assignment	Thoroughly and completely addresses all parts of the assignment; all directions are followed	Adequately addresses all parts of the assignment; most directions are followed	Not thorough (addresses most of the assignment); not all directions were followed.	Too short; directions not followed
Overall Score				