

Getting Started with Hypothes.is

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Hypothesis Overview

[Hypothes.is](#) is a digital annotation tool that operates as a lightweight browser extension. The interface can overlay on any web text, including documents stored on Google Drive. Hypothes.is allows students to create private annotations for their own reference, or to join a group to collaboratively annotate and comment on documents. If you're interested in an alternative to Hypothes.is, in the Spring 2023, NYU licensed [Perusall](#) as its social annotation tool.

After Hypothes.is is enabled, annotations appear on the screen, with the associated passages highlighted in yellow. Clicking on highlighted text opens the annotations panel, which allows students to view and respond to their peers' annotations (see image below). [Demonstrations of Hypothes.is in action can be found here](#).

Create a Hypothesis Account

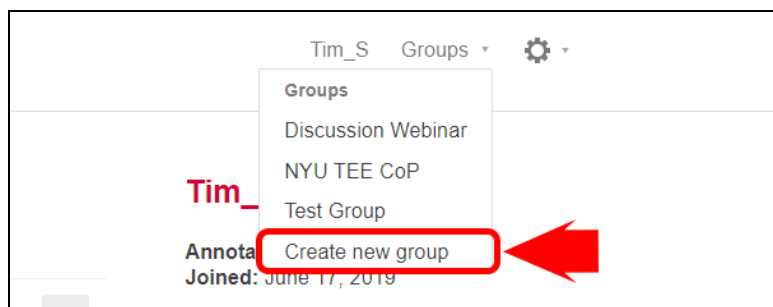
While creating a Hypothesis account isn't required to publicly annotate a web page, these public annotations will be visible to anyone using Hypothesis. If you and your students create free Hypothesis accounts, you will be able to limit annotative discussion to a group you create for your course. Your students will be prompted to create an account when you invite them to join your Hypothesis group (see "Create a Hypothesis Group" below).

★ [Create your free Hypothesis account here.](#)

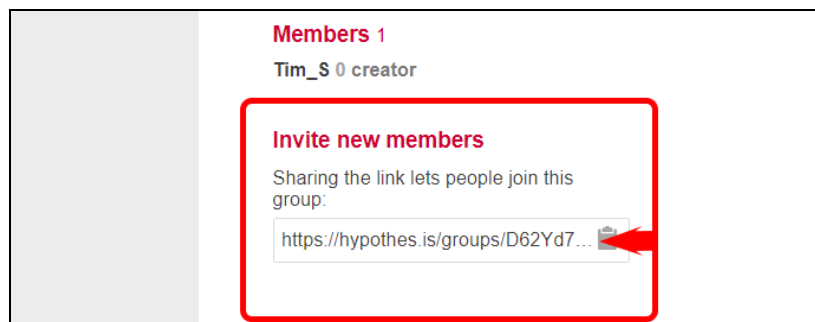
Create a Hypothesis Group

To implement Hypothes.is in conjunction with a specific course, instructors can create and enroll their students in a Hypothes.is group. The group view in Hypothesis will create a repository of annotations on texts. To create a Group:

1. [Login to your Hypothesis account.](#)
2. Click on "Groups" in the upper right corner of your account home page, then click "Create new group" (see image):



3. Give your group a name (required) and description (optional).
4. Invite your students to join the group by copying and sharing the invitation link (see image). They will then be prompted to either login or create a new account.



NOTE: While anyone can leave a group, a group cannot be deleted. Also, you can only delete your own comments, not anyone else's.

Adding Hypothesis to Browsers

Option 1: Hypothes.is Chrome Extension

The Hypothes.is Chrome web browser extension is not necessary to use Hypothes.is; however, it simplifies accessing and managing your annotations and groups.

- ★ [Download the Hypothesis Chrome web browser extension here.](#)

Option 2: Install the Hypothesis Bookmarklet

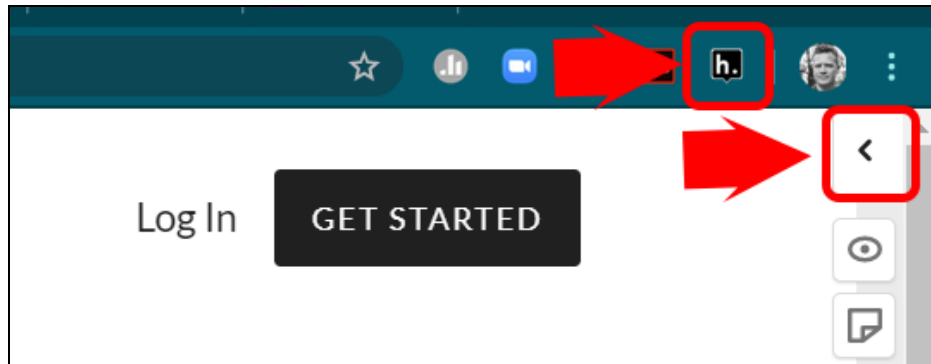
If you prefer to use another browser, such as Safari or Firefox, you can still have the convenience of Hypothesis from the top of your web page.

- ★ [Here are instructions for downloading the Hypothesis Bookmarklet.](#)

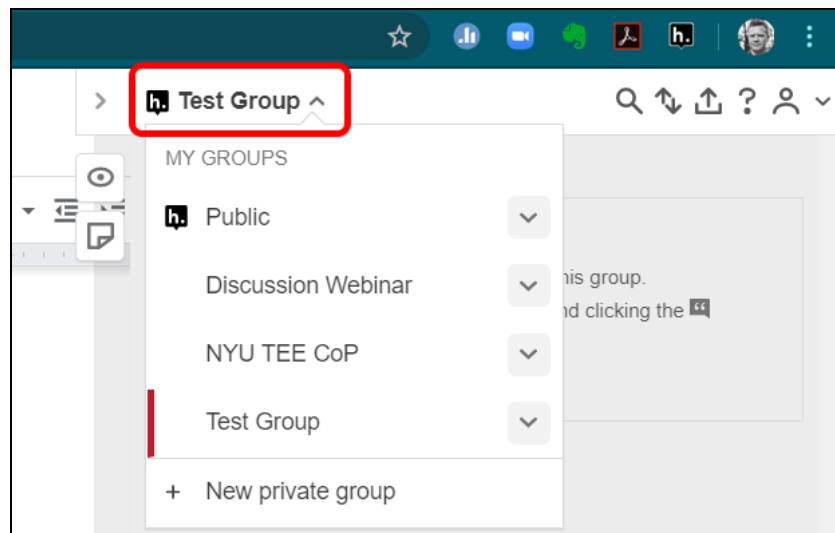
Annotate a Web Page

Option 1: With the Chrome Extension

If you've installed the Chrome extension (see above) navigate to a webpage and then activate Hypothes.is in your browser to start annotating (see image below).



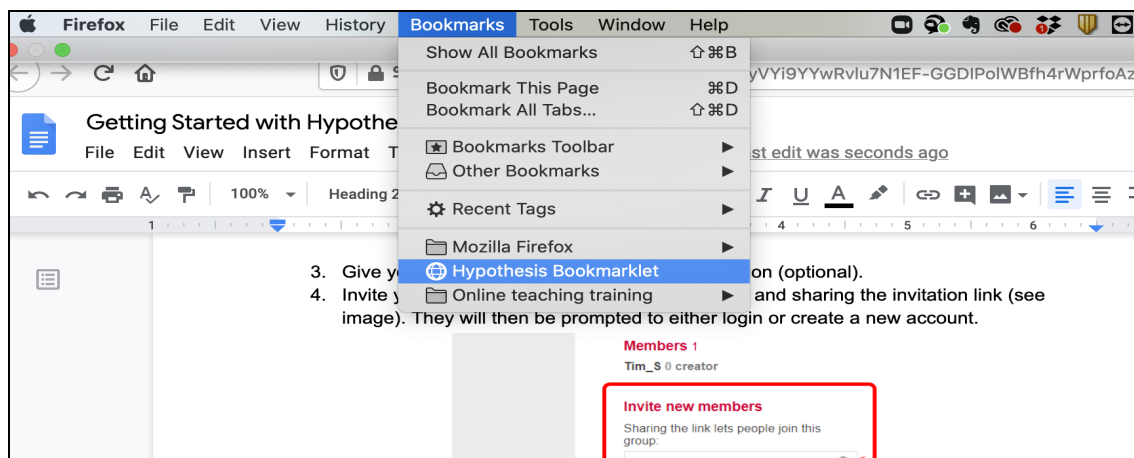
Once you've opened the Chrome extension, you can choose to view and create annotations within one of your private groups. You can also create a new private group here (see image below).



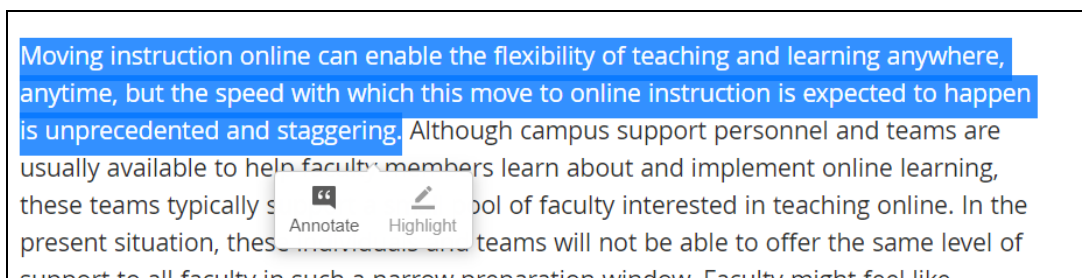
Option 2: With the Hypothes.is Bookmarklet

If you've installed the Bookmarklet (see Option 2 above), navigate to a webpage and click on the Bookmarks tab in your browser and select the Hypothesis Bookmarklet link

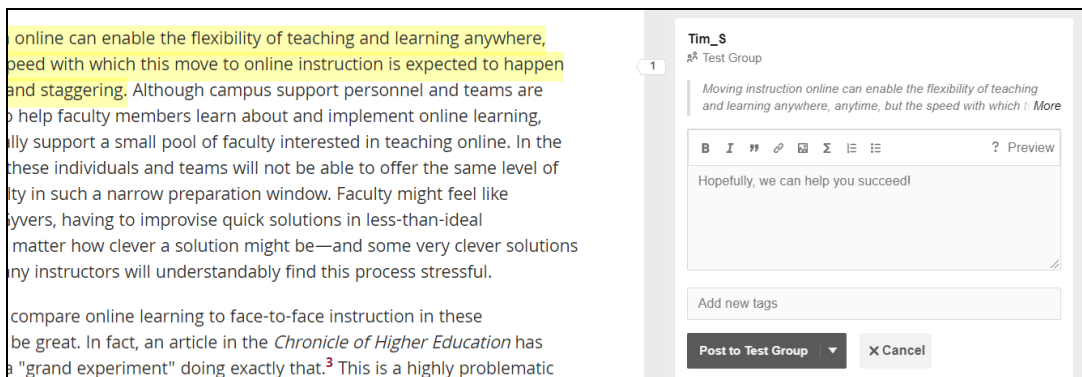
from the bottom of the pull down menu. Clicking on it will give you the same Hypothesis tool overlays described below.



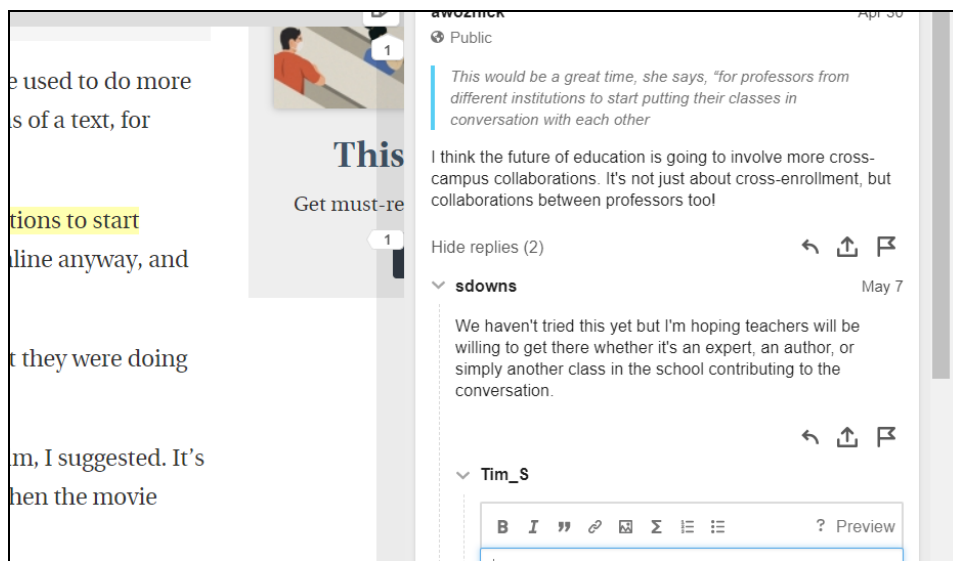
To make an annotation, highlight some text and choose between highlighting or annotating (see image below).



Once you've chosen to annotate, you can add notes in the margins, including links, images, and mathematical notations. At the bottom of the editor, you can choose to post the annotation to the group or make it a private note to yourself (see image below).



You can also reply directly to the comments of other users, creating short discussion threads about a particular passage of the text (see image below).

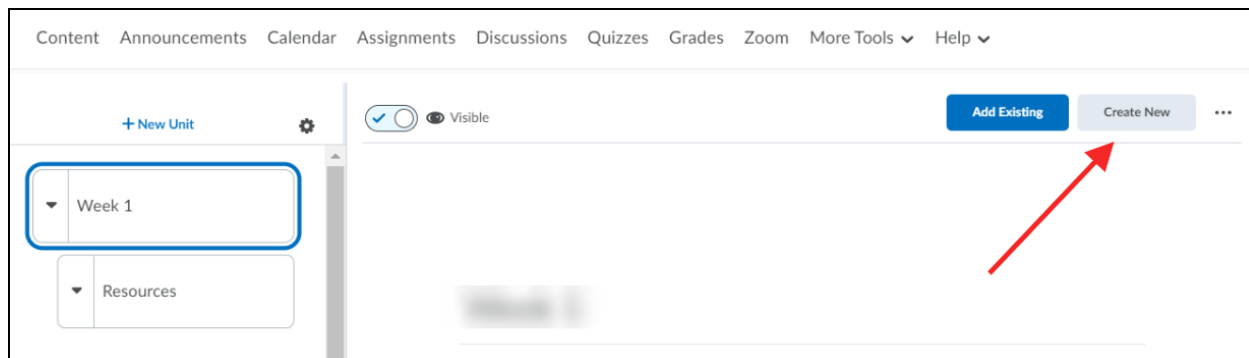


Annotate a .pdf in NYU Brightspace

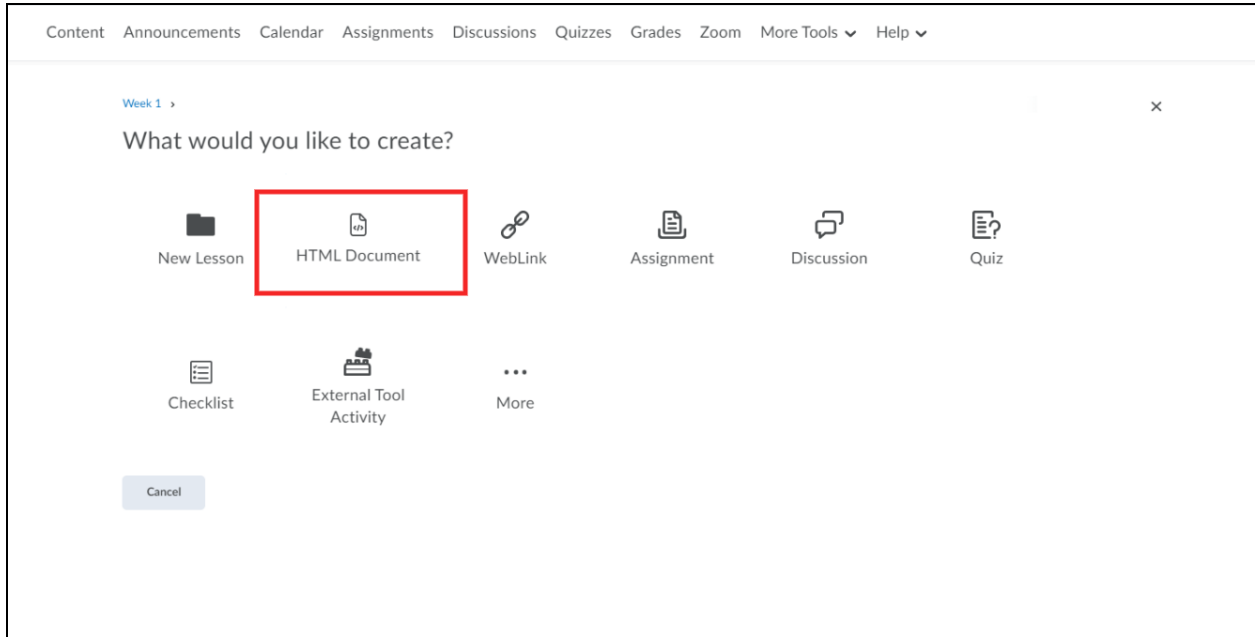
If you've already [added the Hypothesis Chrome extension](#) or the [Hypothesis Bookmarklet](#), you will need to link to a PDF either in the content area or in an Assignment in NYU Brightspace if the annotation activity needs to be graded.

Annotate a .pdf document in the Content Area

1. Select or create the unit you want to add the PDF document to.
2. Click the create new button



3. Select 'new html'



4. Use the insert stuff button to upload the pdf from your computer. Upload the file and type a name for the link and Save. (Be sure to make the content visible)



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and Innovation

Contact: asteaching@nyu.edu

Last Updated: 2/09/24

< Back | New HTML File

Name *

PDF

Due Date

M/D/YYYY

Page Content

Select Template ▾

Paragraph ▾ **B** *I* U + ▾ ...

Verdana ▾ 12pt ▾

PDF to Annotate

Save and Close Save Cancel ☒ Visible

5. The file should now appear in the content area as a link. Click on the name and it should open in a new tab. Use the Hypothes.is browser extension as you normally would.

Content Announcements Calendar Assignments Discussions Quizzes Grades Zoom More Tools ▾ Help ▾

+ New Unit

☒ ☐ Visible Add Existing Create New ...

PDF for annotation

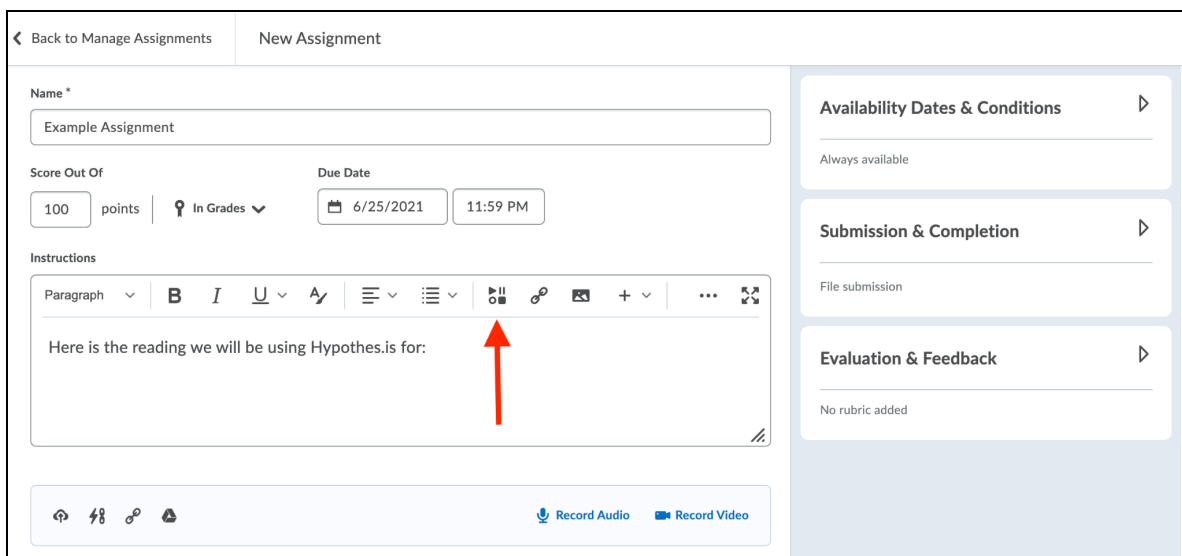
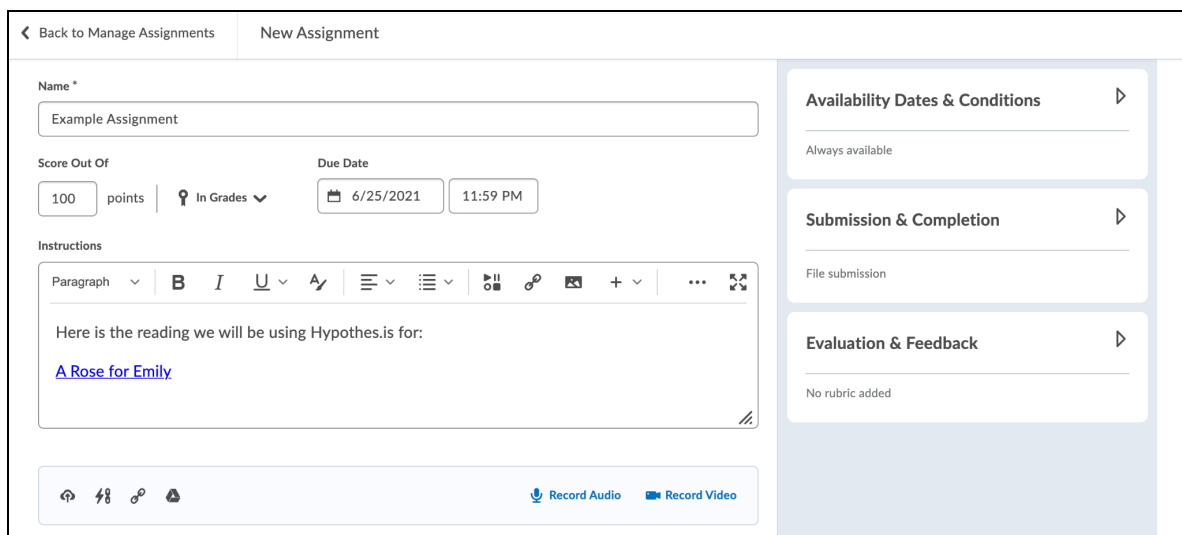
Link for the uploaded .PDF

HTML doc created for PDF link

Pdf as link

Annotate a .PDF in Brightspace Assignment

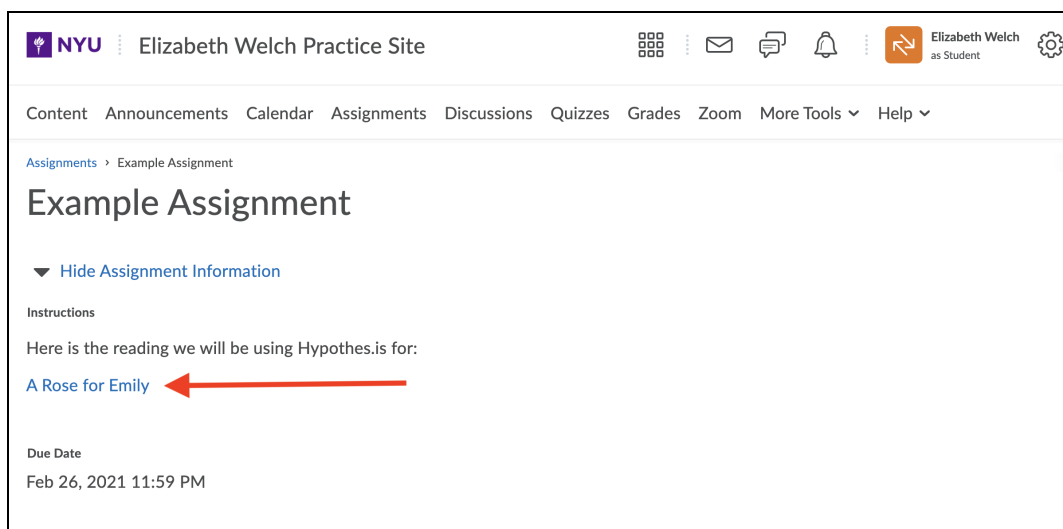
To do so, you would go to edit an existing Brightspace Assignment or create a new assignment and give it a name, and apply a point value and due date if applicable. More information about the [Brightspace Assignments tool can be found here](#). Then, in the instructions box, provide the instructions for this Hypothes.is exercise and click the “Insert Stuff” icon. Select “My Computer” and upload the PDF you would like the class to annotate. You will be asked to rename the “Link Text” so students will just see the name of the reading. Finally, click Save and Close.

To annotate the text, toggle on Student View (click on your name in the upper right corner and select “View as Student”) and navigate to the Assignments tool and the assignment you just edited or created.

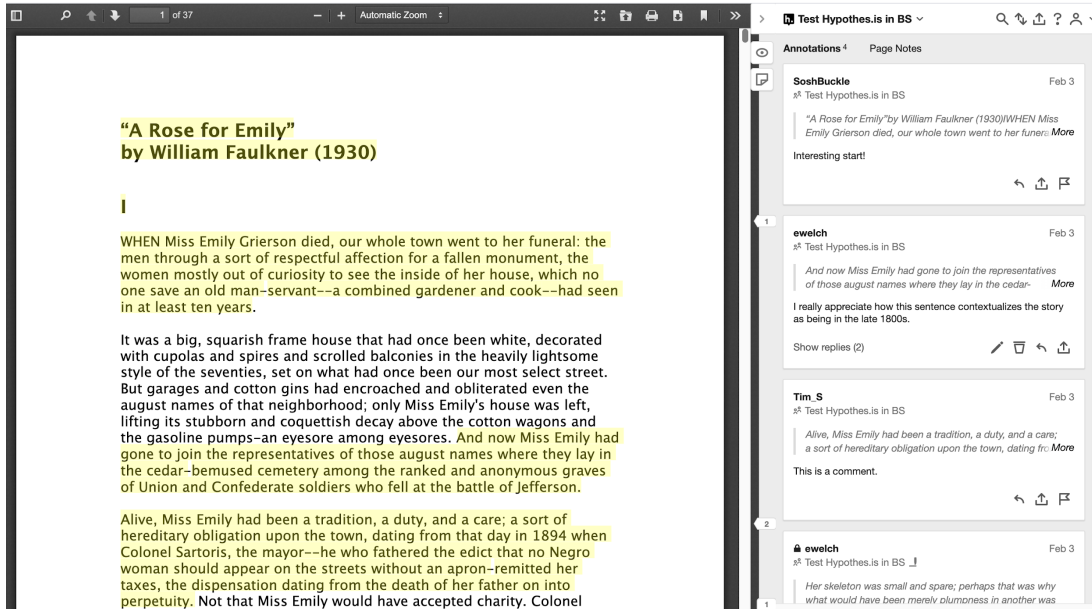
Click on the link to the PDF (A Rose for Emily in the example) and then click on the Hypothes.is extension in your browser to start annotating.

Note: Hypothes.is only works for [pdfs with selectable text](#). Pdf files scanned with a copier will not work unless they are converted.



NOTE: Copyrighted materials should be kept behind NYU login in NYU Brightspace.

The image below shows a pdf attached to an assignment in the NYU Brightspace Assignments tool, then opened in the Chrome browser with the Hypothesis extension enabled:



"A Rose for Emily"
by William Faulkner (1930)

WHEN Miss Emily Grierson died, our whole town went to her funeral: the men through a sort of respectful affection for a fallen monument, the women mostly out of curiosity to see the inside of her house, which no one save an old man-servant—a combined gardener and cook—had seen in at least ten years.

It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street. But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores. And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.

Alive, Miss Emily had been a tradition, a duty, and a care; a sort of hereditary obligation upon the town, dating from that day in 1894 when Colonel Sartoris, the mayor—he who fathered the edict that no Negro woman should appear on the streets without an apron—remitted her taxes, the dispensation dating from the death of her father on into perpetuity. Not that Miss Emily would have accepted charity. Colonel

Annotations 4 Page Notes

SoshBuckle Feb 3
 A Rose for Emily by William Faulkner (1930) WHEN Miss Emily Grierson died, our whole town went to her funeral: **More**
 Interesting start!

ewelch Feb 3
 And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar- **More**
 I really appreciate how this sentence contextualizes the story as being in the late 1800s.
 Show replies (2)

Tim S Feb 3
 Alive, Miss Emily had been a tradition, a duty, and a care; a sort of hereditary obligation upon the town, dating fr: **More**
 This is a comment.

ewelch Feb 3
 Her skeleton was small and spare; perhaps that was why what would have been merely plumpness in another was

This article has ten suggestions on how to create annotation assignments using Hypothes.is:

<https://web.hypothes.is/blog/back-to-school-with-annotation-10-ways-to-annotate-with-students/>

Student Instructions

Here are instructions you can copy and paste into your course site when giving students an assignment in Hypothesis. Note that you will need to modify them by adding the invite link to the private group you create for your class:

We'll engage with this article using a social annotation tool, Hypothes.is. Social annotation tools allow us to have conversations about texts within a copy of the text and root our comments in rich, threaded discussions.

For this assignment, click on this link, <ADD THE INVITE LINK FROM YOUR HYPOTHESIS GROUP HERE> to navigate to the Hypothes.is website. You will need to create an account in Hypothesis to join the group. Then follow the link below to answer the questions for our group discussion. If you have questions about Hypothesis, [here is a helpful FAQ](#).