**Annotating Rhetorical Elements**

Annotating a text involves marking it for specific information. For this class, you will need to annotate rhetorical elements that are common in academic writing. You will look for each element (described below) and create a colored note in the left margin next to the part of the text that applies to each (make your note the same color as below). In your comment, indicate what portion of the article you are identifying with which rhetorical element, AND indicate what language or context clues help you see this element. For example: *In this subsection, the author details the project’s methodology, as clearly indicated by the heading “Methodology” and by the details provided about the author’s research process*. Some authors will not explicitly state a rhetorical element, so you will often need to use language or context clues to find these elements.

**\*object of study**

What is the subject that the authors are studying? Look for a key concept that shows up in the title, abstract, introduction, and conclusion.

**\*exigence**

What is the problem, challenge, or issue that started the authors’ project? Look for terms of contrast or negation (e.g. *however, despite, nevertheless, no, none, not*) and terms like *problem* or *concern.*

**\*purpose**

What is the goal of the text? In other words, what are the authors trying to do with their project? Look for terms such as *aim, goal, focus, reason for,* or *hope*.



**\*relevance**

What do the authors suggest is the significance of their work to the field? Look in the discussion, conclusion, or implications section for terms that indicate future possibility, like *can/could, may, should, or will*.

**\*new offering**

Where does this source indicate new ideas or conclusions resulting from the project? Look for terms such as *This suggests..., These results mean..., One way to interpret these findings...*

**\*methodology**

What research methods were used by the authors to answer their driving questions? Look for a methods section or verbs like *conduct, study, gather, select, survey, interview, or observe*.