**Annotations Project Analysis Tips!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

* Write an **explanation/ analysis** of each category and your overall understanding of its connection to one of the main themes of the novel; place it in the category column. **This should be a clearly thought out explanation with evidence and citations.** You should use all the information you have about the culture, time period and historical influences as well as the events of the book to determine how that element was used to communicate the author’s themes/ messages.

\*\*\*\*\*\*Remember I do not grade on length but on content\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Example of a POOR analysis:

One student had a category entitled Summaries; this is the analysis he included:

*Summarizing each chapter shows the true depth of the book. Summaries condense chapter through chapter, it shows the changes each character went through within the chapters, it also shows how symbols such as the A have evolved throughout the book. Summarizing through annotating help you understand the book better chapter by chapter.*

Finally, the voice is not academic or formal- by using first person pronouns and speaking to the nebulous “you”, this student shows a lack of maturity and sophistication in their writing that also reflects poorly on the quality of thought. They also lack even chapter references or citations of any kind.

Name characters or symbols by name- if you say they changed- explain how, what evidence helped you to understand that change and what was the point the author was trying to make by having them change?

\*\*\*\*Also, they completely omitted an explanation of how the letter “A” changed over the course of the book in the eyes of the Puritan society and how that affected it’s meaning and Hawthorne’s message.

The underlined sections require further development- what was the Puritan belief that applied here? How did the Puritan society view adultery? What is the message Hawthorne was trying to communicate through the use of this symbol?

An example of a stronger but still not complete or perfect analysis:

This one came from a category of annotations focused on the “A”.

*The letter “A” in this book represented the Puritan belief system and the sin in one’s heart. It represented the things that a guilty conscience can make you see (like the “A” in the sky- the meteor) and the way a Puritan society views adultery. Without this symbol, the book wouldn’t have made any sense (obviously seeing as it’s part of the title) and Hawthorne’s message wouldn’t have come through properly. The letter was kind of like the main character, only it’s technically not a character, just a symbol. I think the letter “A” was the perfect way to complete the story line.*

Empty phrases of opinion with no evidence or application to the book are filler and unnecessary.

Summaries are not trackable. The very topic this student chose to address is unacceptable and they set themselves up for a general paragraph with no true analysis.