

How to Annotate Using Hypothes.is

Hypothesis is a digital annotation tool that allows you to “annotate” (or highlight and make comments) on any web page, including PDFs, where the tool is embedded.

After registering and creating a username (for free--see step-by-step directions below), you can begin. Be sure NOT to post to “private”.

Step-by-Step Directions for Chrome or Firefox

1. <https://web.hypothes.is/>
2. click "start annotating"
3. <https://web.hypothes.is/start/>
4. Click on step 1 to create a free account using a username that incorporates your actual name.
5. Click on step 2 to activate the plugin on Chrome or Firefox browsers.
6. Click on [hypothes.is](https://web.hypothes.is/) extension when you call up any pdf or epub file (ebook).
7. You will annotate to the **CJ IN THEATRE SPRING 2026** group. Students should post to public NOT private.

*You may also join the group by following this link:

<https://hypothes.is/groups/nQDJ42ae/cj-in-theatre-spring-2026>

Step-by-Step Directions for Safari

1. <https://web.hypothes.is/start/>
2. Click on step 1 to create a free account using a username that incorporates your actual name.
3. Go down a bit to the gray box that says “hypothesis bookmarklet”
4. Go to “View” in Safari and choose “Show Bookmarks Sidebar” if it’s not already clicked.
5. Click and drag the gray box (“bookmarklet”) into your bookmarks
6. When on a page you wish to annotate, select that bookmark.
7. You will annotate to the **CJ IN THEATRE SPRING 2026** group. Students should post to public NOT private.

*You may also join the group by following this link:

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When you open a .pdf -- any on our Commons website should work -- you'll notice a sidebar that pops up on the right side, and expands when you click the arrow at the top. When you highlight something with your cursor, you'll also notice a little button that pops up (with options to "Annotate" or "Highlight"). That sidebar and button together are the hypothesis application.

If for some reason the sidebar isn't popping up, copy this prefix, and paste it in front of the page URL: <https://via.hypothes.is/>

Hypothes.is fully embedded:

<https://via.hypothes.is/>[WEBSITE](#)

First, in order to use Hypothes.is to make a comment, you need to **register and create a username** on the Hypothesis website. Make sure your username incorporates your actual name in some way (first and last name), so I can give you credit for your annotations.

Second, in order to comment, all you have to do is **highlight (with your mouse) the relevant selection of text**. Then, a little toolbar will pop up above the selection, where you should be able to **click "Annotate"**. Then, the sidebar will expand, and you'll be prompted to type into a textbox. After you're done typing your answer, **press "Post to Public"** (the sidebar should say "Public", not "Private" so I can see your work).

IF YOU TEND TO READ ON A PHONE:

<https://web.hypothes.is/help/how-to-use-hypothesis-on-mobile-devices/>