**PASSAGE ANNOTATION AND ANALYSIS GUIDE**

The purpose of this assignment is to address many of your concerns about the multiple-choice section of the test and to help you practice reading very difficult passages. Completion of these assignments should improve your reading and annotation skills and maximize your chances for success on the multiple choice section.

**PROCESS**: I will provide you with a passage from a sample test. Your homework assignment is to read the passage and complete the requirements below. On the day this assignment is due (each Friday), you will turn in the assignment, and then answer multiple choice questions over the passage.

This is a 100 point **SUMMATIVE** assignment that you will complete once a week for three weeks.

**Step I: Passage Annotation (25 points - highlight and make notes in the margins; label each piece)**

1. **Identify text that supports the passage’s central claim**. What does the author claim to be true? What is he/she arguing about the subject, character, town, etc. (5 points)
2. **Identify text that supports the author’s intended purpose.** Why did he/she write the piece. To show? To inform? To compare? To make the reader aware? Etc. (5 points)
3. Using your tone words list**, identify text that supports the speaker’s overall tone** in the passage and choose appropriate tone words from your lists to label; indicate tone shifts if applicable. (5 points)
4. **Identify two assertions** that support the central claim. These are the statements that are the “because” statements supporting the central claim. Often these will be topic sentences of paragraphs or statements that are like subclaims that are supported with more specific evidence (10 points)
5. **Identify and define unfamiliar vocabulary words, phrases, terms and allusions.** Do not say that there are not any! (10 points)
6. **Identify and explain two different rhetorical strategies** (clever or poignant use of diction [word choice] or syntax [sentence structure]), any other strategy from the handbook; identify what kind of strategy it is (label the example) and then explain the effect of the rhetorical strategy. (10 points)

**Step II: Rhetorical Precis (25 points)**

**Type the precis in MLA format**

Using the rhetorical precis template on the blog, write a complete precis using the information above. You can title your paper each week “Rhetorical Precis – Passage #\_”

**Step III: Complete the multiple choice portion for this passage each Friday (50 points)**

You will be able to use your passage annotations for the next three weeks.