

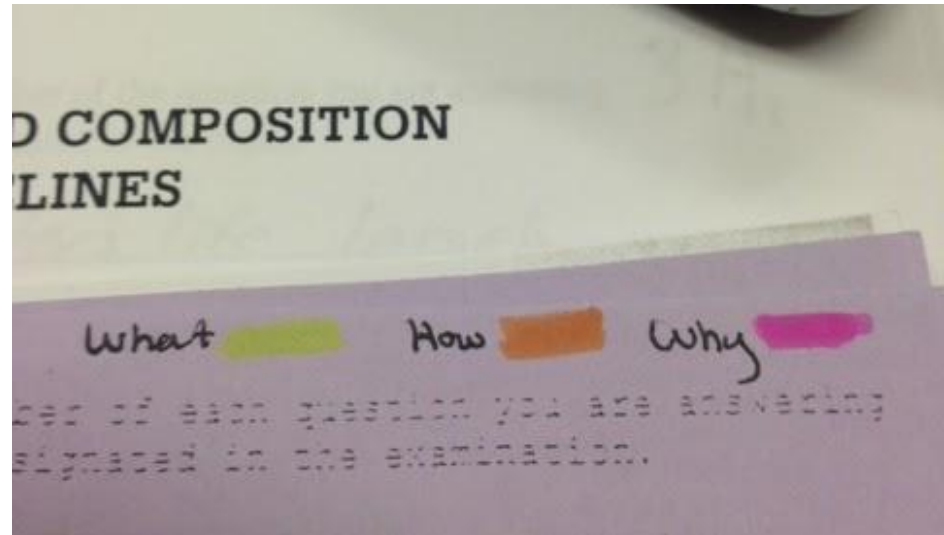
The Power of Highlighting Essays



- The highlighter is a common tool in annotating. Literary texts are coded with different colors making grouping of ideas easy for students.
- Teachers and students, however, tend to put the highlighters down when it comes to essays and miss the opportunity to improve writing through visual learning.
- Taking time to mark essays slows the students down in their reading and studying of writing and gives them a visual of the construction of an essay.

Self-assessment

- **What** - the claim being made (claim)
- **How** - how the author is making the claim (evidence)
- **Why** - why the evidence is important (analysis)



Student self-
assessment

Pink - what
(claim)

Blue - how
(evidence)

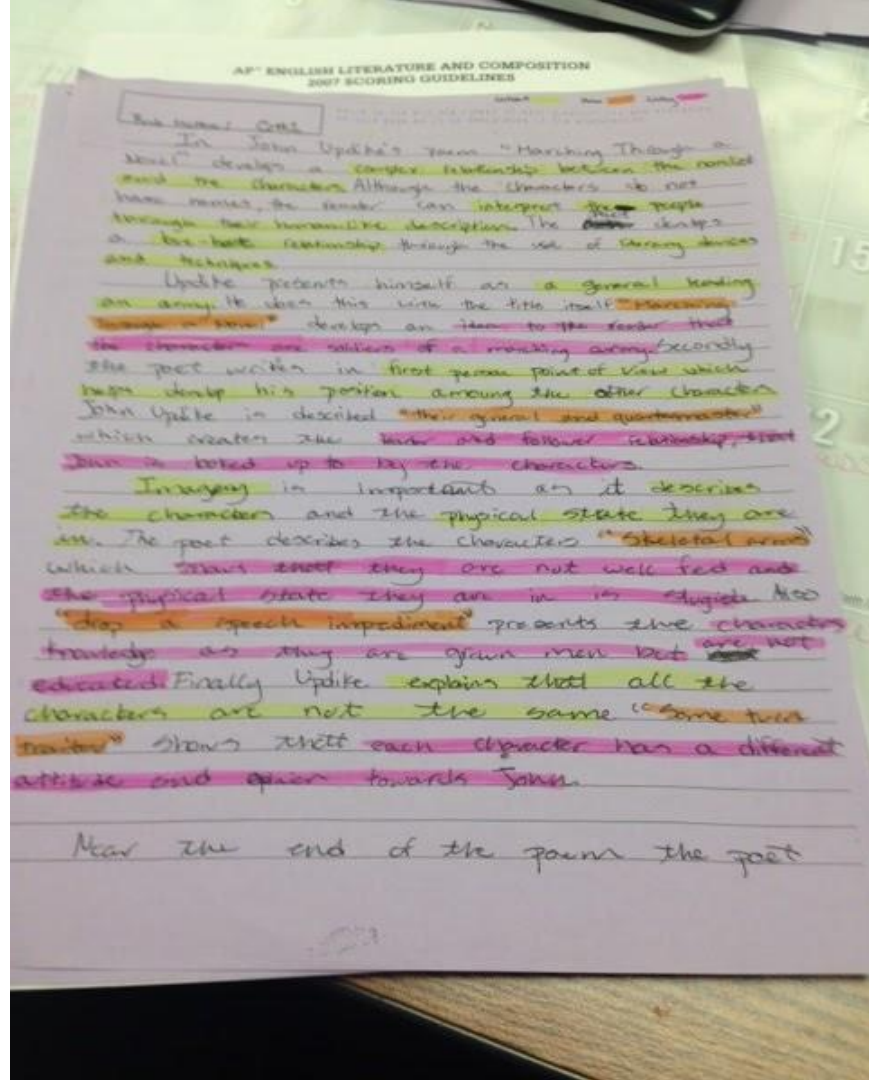
Yellow - why
(analysis)

... which in the novel, from *Gatsby and Daisy's* ... with *Wick's* death.
The *upper* social *bits* and *intrigue* of *the* lives *portrayed* within *these* pages *are*
fantastic while *the* *very* *weather* *steps* *in* *clouds* *and* *distorted* *and* *happy* *ending*
bits *is* *ideal*. *The* *exchange* *of* *status* *is* *very* *obvious* *from* *high* *status* *as*
an *example* *is* *the* *wealthy* *bits* *in* *the* *novel* *and* *unreal* *and* *unreal* *is*
a *material* *element* *played* *by* *love* *and* *status* *and* *representing* *the* *unreal* *is*
what *in* *which* *expectations* *are* *not* *met* *and* *Karma* *always* *has* *severe* *retributive* *power*
on *the* *surface* *Tom* *Buchanan* *is* *positively* *in* *love* *with* *his* *wife* *is* *only* *wealthy*
and *because* *he* *comes* *from* *a* *wealthy* *family* *his* *status* *and* *world* *travels* *that* *make* *him*
intriguing *to* *outsiders* *and* *because* *of* *his* *status* *and* *only* *possible* *because* *of* *the* *revenue*
was *given* *Daisy* *Buchanan* *his* *wife* *who* *captures* *the* *entranced* *attention* *of*
one *who* *is* *lucky* *enough* *to* *be* *in* *her* *presence* *would* *never* *have* *married* *Tom*
if *it* *had* *not* *been* *for* *his* *already* *established* *noteworthy* *rank* *in* *society* *is*
first *stance* *Tom* *wants* *for* *nothing* *yet* *underneath* *the* *binding* *manhood* *and*
responsible *family* *lies* *a* *concocted* *and* *greedy* *man* *Tom* *feels* *entitled* *to* *more*
and *is* *not* *enough* *he* *has* *a* *mistress* *in* *the* *city* *who* *is* *also* *married* *he* *is* *in*
love *and* *his* *wife* *because* *he* *feels* *he* *has* *earned* *the* *right* *to* *be* *he* *takes* *no* *pride*
in *them* *but* *feels* *they* *are* *the* *result* *of* *other* *people's* *mistakes* *Tom* *is* *unloved*
his *mistress* *catches* *up* *with* *him* *and* *his* *past* *leaves* *him* *unprepared* *to*
face *the* *trials* *to* *come*.

inevitable hypocrisy that forms directly with narcissism is revealed
he & Daisy is in love with another man when Gatsby comes to & d...
in household, Tom cannot help but notice the palpable adoration the
"strangers" have for each other. Gatsby's possession of Daisy's he...
great towards Tom, for his wealth and reputation almost surpass...
& sense of security breaking down revealing the fear Tom th...

Student self-assessment

This student is able to visually see how many of his words are “wasted” or not counting. EVERY word should count for something!



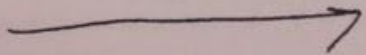
Using Anchor Essays

- Provide anchor essays from College Board or model essays written by students or teachers for students to mark. By choosing pre-scored essays, students can visually see the evidence and analysis in an 8 essay compared to a 4 essay.
- Students may also highlight for other things such as syntax or vocabulary if you are wanting to focus on personal style in writing.

~~Paul is not a character's life largely~~
~~about that person's previous and future actions.~~
~~It is about their attitudes and values that~~
~~guide their actions. Such a case is evident in~~
~~Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre. Brontë uses Jane's~~
~~childhood experiences to contribute to the~~
~~development of the entire work.~~

Answer 8

As a child, Jane is raised by her cruel
~~and~~ ~~father~~ Aunt Reed. One time that Jane
 catches her particularly angry, she locks Jane in
 the red room in which her uncle died. She
 believes she sees his ghost and faints. From
 then on, she ~~fore~~ ~~loves~~ categorizes of any
 form. She initially does not marry Rochester
 because it would mean enslavement as a
 mistress, breaking her principles. When St. John
 proposes that she be his wife in India,
 she again refuses marriage because of
 fear of imprisonment. In this case, she can
 exercise her principles of charitable work
 but would be trapped emotionally. There
 is no affection between her and St.
~~John~~ It is only when Jane is able to
 connect with her past that she can be happy.
 She reconciles her differences with ~~her~~ ~~the~~



that why

Peer Editing

- Students are able to edit each other's papers with highlighters. Again, this slows down reading and causes students to critically think about the writing process.
- Students can use this to offer feedback to their peers about writing and receive feedback from someone other than the teacher on their writing.
- I am always amazed at what students find in each other's writings and the suggestions they are able to give their peers.

Things to Remember

Use a variety of model essays

Studying construction of a poorly written essay can be just as effective as a well written essay. Some lessons may consist of only looking at excellent essays while others may compare outstanding essays to mediocre essays.

Use full and partial essays

When working on introductions, pull multiple introductory paragraphs and use coding to compare just those paragraphs. If teaching analysis, code a body paragraph or two to use as the base of a discussion for the different placements of analysis within a paragraph. Use full essays to analyze whether support is consistent throughout the essay or whether style tends to become simplified as the end.

Things to Remember

Limit focus to what your students need

This activity can be a mini-lesson focusing on paragraph construction or a full lesson on transitions and progression of ideas through an entire essay. Use your students writing weaknesses to drive and determine lessons.

Use as a pre-writing or post-writing activity

Balance coding in teaching the writing process as well as evaluating personal writing.

Taking Risks in Writing

- Teaching personal style is hard - especially if students feel like they could receive a lower grade for trying something new.
- I have students put an asterisk by or bracket experimental sentences designating they are trying a different syntax pattern, punctuation, word choice to develop voice, or even using figurative language in writing. This marking lets me see what they are trying out so I can give specific feedback on it and serves as a “protected” sentence where I will not count off no matter if it turns out badly.
- Encourage students to take risks in writing; this is how they grow in their personal style.

ng in kerosene tins," a rather
to have heard those "fragr
need storyteller whose wo
n as "shadows" ~~was~~ is
cherous walk that could ha
strengthened their bonds in
ed in one shadow[:] ~~was~~

18

~~Myrtle~~
Myrtle
mistress
as barren
cheats on
purchases
teases Tom
Myrtle is s
and uncult
Myrtle is a

experimentation

25

Speed Dating: AP Style

Directions: You will receive a Q3 prompt from the AP Literature Exam. You will have 5 minutes to “get acquainted” with it. Examine its meaning, peer into its soul and decide how to “make conversation” with it for a prewrite. You do not actually have to write the essay, just write the introductory paragraph. If you have time after writing the intro., list the main points and concrete examples you would use IF you had to write the essay - a serious commitment in terms of AP dating/writing!

At the end of 5 minutes, I will call time, and you will pass the prompt on to the student to your right, receiving a new one in turn. After 25 minutes, we will stop and discuss responses.



2004. Critic Roland Barthes has said, "Literature is the question minus the answer." Choose a novel, or play, and, considering Barthes' observation, write an essay in which you analyze a central question the work raises and the extent to which it offers answers. Explain how the author's treatment of this question affects your understanding of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.

2004
"The Forrest eats itself and lives free
in the Poisonwood Bible, Kingsolver is
the question of whether society, cult
or religion can be controlled and
the consequences of fighting
in the world.