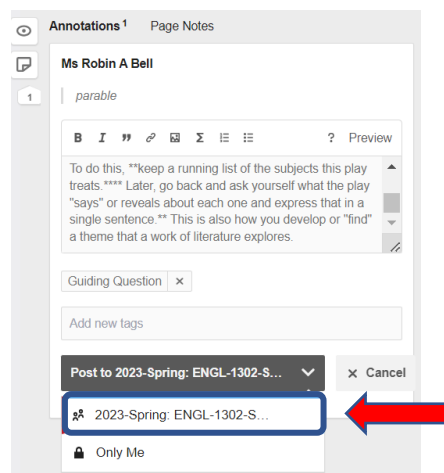# Layer 2, Social Annotation: Discussion and Debate

In this phase, you will annotate, discuss, and debate the play *Doubt* with a small group of classmates to help establish claims that will become topic sentences—provable points—that you will develop in your paper. The process of discussing and debating the text will help you refine and defend the arguments you started in your initial round of annotations and provide opportunity to see and respond to interpretations and arguments that challenge yours.

All annotations in this layer **MUST** be Posted to **[the class/group]** from the drop-down post-to menu and include two separate tags: a **Layer 2** tag in addition to the **tag types** for Layer 2, which are listed on the next page, after the image below:

If you don't post to the class/group, your group will not be able to see or interact with your annotations.

Layer 2 Annotation Types and Guidelines

🔍 **Evidence-Based Stance Annotation, Tag: EBS** Create one 1 annotation that clearly states your stance regarding the central question of the play—is Father Flynn guilty or innocent? Your annotation should be attached to a specific piece of evidence from the text that supports your stance and include a brief argument connected to that evidence, and if applicable, to other parts of the text. Use the tag **EBS** for these annotations. This will allow your classmates to see up front who is arguing what and allow opportunity for feedback on that stance and your ability to connect it to one piece of textual evidence from the outset. It is okay to grab the one you put in your individual annotations for the working thesis and post that, or you can create a new one.

🏅 **Claim Annotation, Tag CA:** Formulate at least 3 potential topic sentences or claims about the play that align with your stance. Each claim should be based on different textual evidence, and each should cover a different part of the play (beginning, middle, and end). Use the tag **CA** for these annotations, along with a tag indicating the stance, e.g., **CA Guilty** or **CA Innocent.** Note that you will need more than three topic sentences or claims for the paper, and it will be okay to get ideas for basic claims for topic sentences from the group annotations. In fact, that's the point: to establish topic sentences and crowdsource for points and to refine ideas based on the interactions with the group. Claim Annotations should also present the start of an argument based on the textual evidence.

📕 **Textual Questions (TQ) Annotation**: Pose a minimum of 3 questions regarding the text. These questions can be about anything that might clarify your understanding, challenge a claim, or delve more deeply into the themes of the play. These questions will serve as conversation starters for the group and can be tagged **TQ**.

🗨️ **Responses, Tag: R** Aim for a minimum of 3 responses to your peers' annotations. These can be spread across categories, and can include **counterarguments**, **concessions, clarifications, or questions.**

🎞️ **Film Connections, Tag: Film** Aim for at least 2 connections, questions, claims, or comments, or responses to peers' annotations related to the film.

Minimum number of total posts=12, but you are encouraged to have more

Active Engagement: Throughout the week, you should aim to actively engage in the Hypothesis space, checking in at least 3-4 times during the week to respond to new comments, adjust your arguments, or add more TQs as you deepen your understanding of the play. As you engage with the text and each other's annotations, remember that quality should always come before quantity. Deep, thoughtful engagement with the text and your peers' ideas is the goal of this exercise.

Layer 2 Tag Type Example Annotations

1. **Evidence-Based Stance (EBS) Annotation:**

Ms Robin A Bell — Just now

You have not the slightest proof of anything.

My basic and initial stance or thesis based on the central question in the play is that Father Flynn is guilty. When Sister Aloysius directly asserts that Father Flynn is guilty, his response to that is to say, "You have not the slightest proof of anything" (38). This is not how someone who is innocent would respond to such an awful allegation. In fact, this kind of response suggests his guilt. It's what a smug, entitled, and powerful person might say and can be construed as a tacit admission of guilt.

EBS Father Flynn is Guilty

Showing **1 annotation** — ✕ Show all (3)

Ms Robin A Bell — 3 mins ago

You're insane! You've got it in your head that I've corrupted this child after giving him wine, and nothing I More

My basic and initial stance or thesis is that Father Flynn is innocent. In this exchange, Sister Aloysius admits that there is nothing that Father Flynn can say to convince her of his innocence, despite the fact that she conceded earlier in the play that his explanation for Donald's strange behavior after his return to class provided a reasonable account that was so plausible, Sister James considered the issue settled and Sister Aloysius had to drop the matter for the moment as well.

EBS Father Flynn is Innocent

Include a **Layer 2** tag on all posts for this Layer, too.

2. **Claim Annotations (CA):**

Ms Robin A Bell — *(edited Just now)* Jun 11

Eight years ago at St. Boniface we had a priest who had to be stopped. But I had Monsignor Scully then . . .who More

This line reveals Sister Aloysius's previous experience with "a priest who had to be stopped" (21). It is understandable how this might put her on high alert for another priest with bad intentions; however, it is also possible that this has clouded her judgement and primed her to read things into otherwise innocent actions. Later in the play, there is a part where Father Flynn tells Sister James something like this: "Even the most innocent actions can appear sinister to a poisoned mind," which is true. Her awful experience with one bad priest and her good intentions of not wanting that to happen again has likely poisoned her mind against the possibility of his innocence. This is one piece of evidence that can depict Sister Aloysius as well-intentioned but misguided in her pursuit of the truth regarding the central question of the play. Here is a possible topic sentence:

Topic sentence: Although there is much evidence to suggest Sister Aloysius is well-intentioned, there is also much evidence to suggest that her judgement is clouded by previous experiences and her assessment of Father Flynn, flawed.

CA Innocent

Ms Robin A Bell — *(edited 12 mins ago)* 13 mins ago

Eight years ago at St. Boniface we had a priest who had to be stopped. But I had Monsignor Scully then . . .who More

This line reveals Sister Aloysius's experience at a parish with "a priest who had to be stopped" (21). The implication is that there was a priest who was preying upon children and that he was, indeed, stopped from causing further harm with the aid of Monsignor Scully. Although this is not in any way proof of Father Flynn's guilt, it does suggest the possibility of it. The story takes place in 1964, a time in which it was unimaginable that a priest could do such a thing. This line helps establish the possibility of it, and it can be used with other evidence to establish Sister Aloysius's credibility. Here's a possible topic sentence that might work to establish her credibility.

Topic Sentence: Sister Aloysius's age, secular life prior to entering the convent, and prior experience with a "bad" priest are all things that inform her judgement and lend credibility to the notion of entertaining the possibility of Father Flynn's guilt.

CA Guilty

Include a **Layer 2** tag on all posts for this Layer, too.

Note: In this example, the same piece of evidence was used to draw two different conclusions or present two different possibilities. This is true for much of the evidence in the play, and this is also true for evidence in general for many things. It never really speaks for itself. It is what YOU do with it that matters. That's what shapes opinions and wins arguments.

3. **Textual Questions (TQ) Annotation:**

Ms Robin A Bell   Just now

> The hierarchy of the Church does not permit my going to
> the bishop. No. Once I tell the monsignor, it's outof my
> hands, I'm helpless.

This is a BIG question for the group. What IS the right course
of action in a case like this for Sister Aloysius, given the time
period and the patriarchal establishment of the church? That is,
how should she proceed if she believes something untoward
may be going on but she has no faith that the bishop will even
investigate it, much less do anything about it if it turns out to be
true?

TQ The Right Course of Action?

Include a **Layer 2** tag on all posts for this Layer, too.

4. **Responses (R):**

Hide replies (2)

∨ **Ms Robin A Bell**   (edited Just now) 3 mins ago

That's a great question and one I'm not sure I can answer,
per se, beyond this: Regardless of the right course, many
people might be inclined toward Sister James' and Mrs.
Muller's approach. The possibility of Father Flynn's guilt is so
awful, the weight of it is too much to bear, and in the
absence of a formal investigation or people in positions of
authority to bear that weight, many people will succumb to
the Bystander Effect.

I'm including this really short video to illustrate this point:

What Is the Bystander Effe...

R

Include a **Layer 2** tag on all posts for this Layer, too.

Notice how in this response to the **TQ** (Question) above, I have included a video on the Bystander
Effect. I did this via a link and an embed, which shows up out in the open. This is a reminder, too,
that there are options for you to add multimedia to any of your posts when it is relevant, interesting,
or useful to do so, and videos are not the only options. You can add images, GIFS, videos, and links
to online articles or resources.