

# TESTING HYPOTHESIS: AN EDTECH CASE STUDY

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ACCUTE 2021, May 30



# HYPOTHESIS ([hypothes.is](https://hypothes.is))

- Open-source social annotation tool
- Add highlights, comments with basic text formatting, links, images
- Annotations can be public or private
- Popular LMS integration (in development)

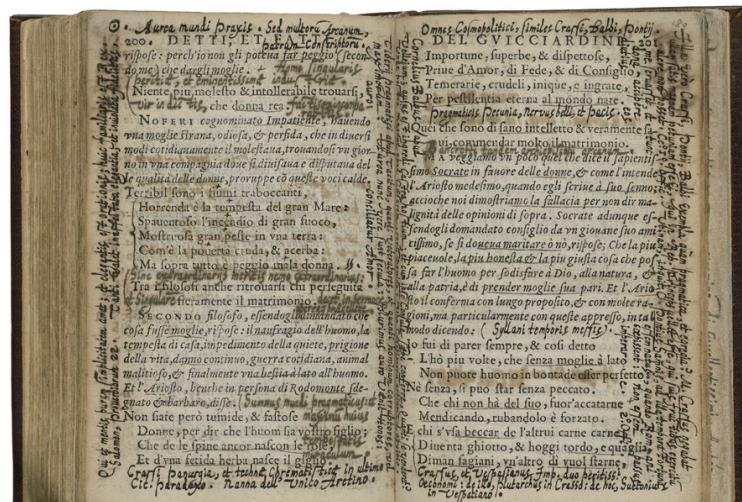


Image credit: <https://hub.jhu.edu/2014/07/11/archaeology-of-reading/>

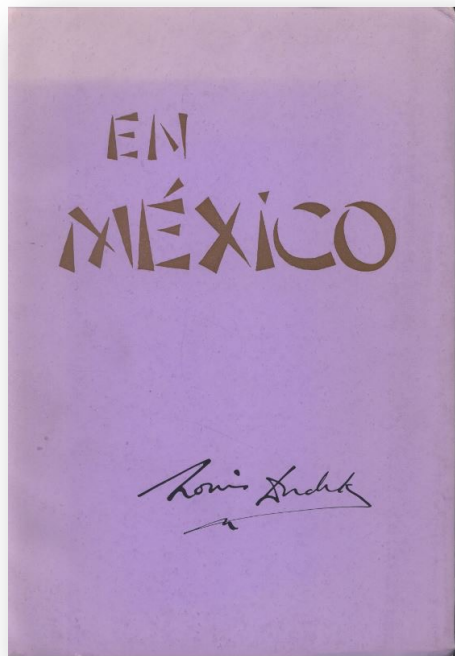
Other social annotation tools:

Perusall

diigo

NOWCOMMENT®

# MY “DIGITAL ANNOTATION ASSIGNMENT”



Louis Dudek, *En México* (1958)

## The assignment:

- [5%] Min. 5 annotations/student (options: comment, question, close reading, response to someone else's annotation)
- [5%] Short reading response (~2 pages) based on one of the annotations

## The setup:

- OCR'd PDF uploaded to my personal website
- Access provided via “proxy method”

## 10 Matching Annotations

Oct 2019

ghjensen.com

dudek\_en-mexico\_ocr.pdf

10

**astevensonkaplan**

10 Oct 2019


in  Engl 452

| *Order remains unimpaired*

This stanza addresses the mind's proclivity for seeking out order amid chaos. It seems that confronting the disordered reality of the jungle has caused Dudek to contemplate the sense of underlying meaning or unity that persists both in Mexico's urban cities and in its jungles. Dudek observes that "small leaves are perfect in detail," an almost mathematical image that complements the following line, "Order remains unimpaired / in man and in matter," (71). Thus, nature's order is reflected in the order that exists "in man," or in the artist's perception of the world around him.



 Visit annotations in context

 Annotators

astevensonkaplan

 URL

ghjensen.com/engl452/dudek\_en-mexico\_ocr.pdf

**a stevenson-kaplan**

Annotations: 10

Joined: October 1, 2019

Top tags 0

**astevensonkaplan**

10 Oct 2019

in  Engl 452

| *There is the art if jormal repetition and the art if singular jorm-lines, lines like a wave-worn stone.*

Another reference to Dudek's disdain for poetry that relies too heavily on fixed meter, or poetry that lends itself too easily to scansion. See "A Note on Metrics": "Metro makes it easy to counterfeit poetry" (17).

*To the peak of Popocatepetl  
seen in the liquid sky  
(as we came from Taxco)  
cutting the air with white precision.*

72

Showing 1 annotation

Show all (99)

95

astevensonkaplan

Oct 9, 2019

Engl 452

Popocatepetl

"Popocatepetl is an active stratovolcano, located in the states of Puebla, Morelos and State of Mexico, in central Mexico, and lies in the eastern half of the Trans-Mexican volcanic belt. At 5,426 m it is the second highest peak in Mexico."



"Popocatepetl." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 3 Oct. 2019. Web. 9 Oct. 2019.



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# THE RESULTS

- Great participation, incl. from students who never spoke in class
- Small stakes encouraged great creativity and openness; small annotations easily scaffolded into larger assignments
- Student response overwhelmingly positive

“I loved Hypothesis as a learning tool [. . .] I actually mentioned it to a few people in the department who were looking for ways to spice up their student engagement online after the pandemic hit. I thought it would be a great fit for UVic’s Honours seminar especially, and I’m hopeful that more profs will make use of it in the future. I really enjoyed collaborating with classmates whose contributions and insights I may not have had access to otherwise; I also thought the long poem specifically was a great fit for the annotation exercise.”

— Allegra Stevenson-Kaplan (student; quoted with permission)



*Guadalupe  
on the road of Teotihuacan.*

*That is not what I need.*

*Here where they killed for the god  
with knives of obsidian,  
and the Spaniards "massacred ten thousand"  
and the Spaniards "massacred four thousand"  
building crosses.*

*What of the "process"  
that a pill can control?*

IO

Showing 1 annotation

Show all

astevensonkaplan

(edited Oct 10, 2019) Oct 9, 2019

Engl 452

What of the "process" that a pill can control?

Is this an allusion to birth-control pills? (See P. 28 "Man, come to shape out of smoking matter / out of male secretion in the womb, take form. / All things, all bodies: / that they should come out of nothing," and P. 34 "we return for fertility / to its moist limbs / and vaginal leaves," for examples of Dudek's interest in fertility and reproduction.)

If so, "the pill" was approved by the FDA around the same year Dudek was writing this poem (1957/58), so it might have been a particularly pertinent topic at the time. Interestingly, the first oral contraceptive was created by synthesizing hormones from Mexican yams.

Is this interpretation of the line a stretch? What do you think?

Navigation icons: back, forward, and flag.

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# POTENTIAL CHALLENGES/LIMITATIONS

- Digital assignments frequently require:
  1. more initial setup, more of a time investment throughout
  2. new methods of assessment
  3. new conversations between students and instructors about digital privacy
- There are risks associated with public-facing scholarship:

“There are real risks to taking scholarship outside the ivory tower, risks that accrue unevenly based on identity and visibility. Internet shitstorms rain down disproportionately, and with disproportionate damage, upon the more precarious: women, people with disabilities, people of color, junior scholars, and the contingently employed.”

(Aimée Morrison, “Of, By, and For the Internet: New Media Studies and Public Scholarship,” p. 61)

- Digital tools can condition readers’ responses to texts



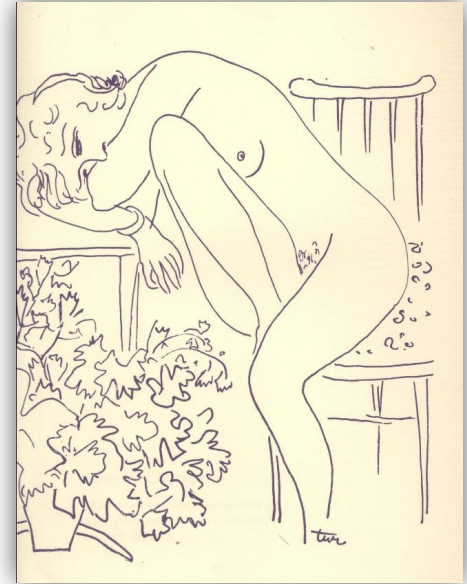
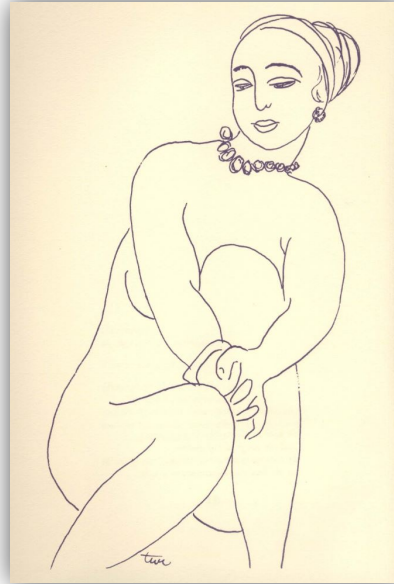
# NON-TEXTUAL ELEMENTS IN/AND HYPOTHESIS

Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)



Paul Gauguin, detail of *Self-Portrait with Idol* (c. 1893); image credit: gallery.ca

Zygmunt Turkiewicz's illustrations in *En México*



# THANK YOU!

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For more information about Hypothesis,  
check out <https://hypothes.is/>.

# (BONUS SLIDE)



(Above: Tweet by Dr. Lee Skallerup Bessette (@readywriting): “Was looking for something else but found this little lost (and totally always relevant) pin instead.” [The pin reads “EDTECH WILL NOT SAVE YOU”])