This course is housed under the Department of Human Development and Family Science (HDFS), under the College of Health and Human Sciences. The course is also open to any majors, and typically has many students from majors such as Clinical Professions (pre-med/nursing), Psychology, and Public Health. With Annoto, students were able to create in-context discussions that replicated an in-person class, where students could think critically, reflect, and hear the perspectives of their peers.

**Before using Annoto, what did you do?**

“I had previously used traditional discussion boards in Canvas. Now with Annoto, I no longer use the Discussion Board function.

I never felt like I got good discussion from the discussion board function I used before Annoto, and student responses were more perfunctory and less meaningful. With Annoto, the conversation feels more natural, as students can reflect and respond throughout the lecture. The conversation feels more “social” in nature, much like a threaded discussion in social media, with students viewing other student comments and replying in very insightful ways.” Dr. Wilson
Using Annoto to create a meaningful discussion:

“Interaction with the annoto tool is mandatory with points associated for viewing the lecture videos and commenting throughout the lecture.

Prompts are occasionally given during the lecture that ask questions for students to reply and comment on other student’s posts. But there is freedom in how they reply and it is intended to be more of an informal discussion and reflection on course content, much like we would’ve had in face-to-face classes.

A total of 50 points will be earned by viewing the videos and discussing the content, with approximately 3 points given per chapter lecture for viewing and interacting.”

Gaining actionable insights from Annoto Dashboard

“The Annoto dashboard was a helpful way to read and respond to comments posted by students and to gauge students viewing rate of the lecture videos, their rate of comments, and completion of any review quizzes embedded throughout videos.”

While watching the course videos, we can see that students actively engaged in the discussion throughout the semester.
IN-context discussion in the course included 1,226 comments and replies, which led to 2,310 engagement events (meaningful interactions with the content, not only writing in the discussion, but reading it as well.)
In other words, once a discussion occurs, it offers benefits not only to the participants, but to additional learners as well.
Annoto in the course:

Students in the online Human Sexuality Education course were asked to complete an anonymous survey about their experiences with Annoto, and the following summarizes their responses:

![Pie chart showing preferences for discussion types]

- **Both**: 15.0%
- **Canvas**: 20.0%
- **Annoto**: 65.0%

In what ways did you use Annoto?

- I answer questions posed by the instructor: 100.0%
- I read instructor’s posts: 75.0%
- I read other people’s posts: 75.0%
- I reply to other people’s posts: 25.0%
- I comment with my reflections on course: 75.0%
- I answer the review quizzes: 75.0%
Students shared about Annoto:

“Annoto helps me pay more attention to the content.”

“Reading other students’ posts and reflecting on not only what they have to say, but also what I have to say definitely helps my learning experience.”

“I love being able to respond to prompt in the lecture and being able to reply to other students’ responses. It feels like a true discussion.”

“It keeps me engaged throughout the lecture and provides an easily accessible place for me to have my own notes.”

“I really enjoy the post questions at the end of the lecture. It helps me quiz what I learned and what might need further reviewing after watching the lecture.”

“It helps hold yourself accountable for watching lectures.”

Cindy Wilson
Course Instructor

Annoto provides students more opportunities to think critically about the course content as they reflect on the questions posted and also have the chance to hear other students’ perspectives. In an online class, Annoto accomplishes many of the same goals for discussion as in in-person class. I highly recommend it to other instructors!