Vocabulary Example

1. “They picked up on the particular egalitarian ethos of the community, which discouraged the wealthy from flaunting their success and helped the unsuccessful obscure their failures.” (9)

   Ethos-the characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community as manifested in its beliefs and aspirations.

   This word has more of an official feel, it is used most often in academic and professional texts and conversations. I think brings a bit of academics into the story of this chapter.

Discussion Question Example

Introduction (You do not have to do this one since I have done it here for you! You will begin with a question for Chapter One.)

The Roseto mystery was the name given to an anomaly that occurred in Roseto, PA. The people there were extremely healthy...specifically, they did not have early heart disease or any other disease-related cause of death. When a pretty extensive study was conducted, and many possibilities were eliminated. Finally, scientists discovered that some particulars of the lifestyle of the people of Roseto were the reason for their good health. Gladwell jumps right into this story before giving any exposition or commentary. The first several paragraphs of this introduction could be a collection of short stories, a novel, a travel book, etc.. It is an interesting way to begin a non-fiction novel, but it leaves the reader wondering about the main point until near the end of the chapter. Even then, Gladwell is a little indirect when he writes, “In Outliers, I want to do for our understanding of success what Stewart Wolf did for our understanding of health.” I am not sure to what extent the medical community credits Wolf’s study with significantly changing the way we think of health...but Gladwell seems to be saying that the change in thought brought about by Wolf was substantial. By comparing himself to Wolf, Gladwell is saying that he hopes to significantly impact the way we view success.

Note to Students:
This example is a little over 200 words. Your answers might be a good bit shorter than mine and still meet the 100-200 word requirement.
To check word count:

1. Select **Tools** from the tool bar on the top of the page.
2. Select **Word Count** from the dropdown menu that appears. A box will appear, giving you information about the text that you highlighted, including the number of words it contains.
Notice how few markings I have made on this page. This is perfectly fine. If I were to cover each page with comments and notes, then I would have difficulty going back to find any one comment. More is not always better with annotation. Think of annotation as a record of your interaction with the text….in other words, what would you say to the author as you read this page? (Assuming you could speak freely to him.) OR what would you say to another friend about that part? Some pages will have nothing written on them, and that is fine!

This page has many more comments/questions. I must have really liked or really disliked this page! Realize that most of my pages look more like the one above, and only one or two per chapter look like this one.

(The highlighted sentence is one of my vocabulary words that I plan to use for Part-2 of the summer reading assignment.)

Remember that you can use any method of annotating. I do not care if you underline, highlight, post-it or use some other way.