

Digital Annotation Project

Overview

We will collaborate to create a Critical Edition of Edward Jenner's *Vaccination Against Smallpox*. Working individually and in small groups, you will identify vocabulary, areas of confusion, and important ideas and then create explanatory notes aimed at future students in this course. We will upload our notes to a digital version of the text so that we can share information with readers beyond our classroom.

Group Work:

Your group will be responsible for a limited range of pages in Jenner's *Vaccination Against Smallpox*. The group will define vocabulary and summarize the main point of two case studies in Part 1. We will spend some class time on group work, and you will also need to communicate with your group via email or in person.

Individual Work:

After you identify a question or topic you'd like to explore, you will conduct independent research in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century periodicals to discover the context for Jenner's work. For Assignment #1, you will choose two relevant articles and write a short summary of each. For Assignment #2, you will use this research to write a scholarly note of 200+ words elucidating Jenner's text. We'll have an in-class workshop to learn how to use the library's subscription databases.

NOTE: We will use A.nnotate.com to create our critical edition. Follow the link on our course site to create a login (the service is free). From there, you can access the digital text, create your own notes, and review your peers' notes.

Group Work

- **Vocabulary.** Each group will be responsible for defining key terms in the assigned cases. Identify the terms you think are most confusing for students and most important for understanding Jenner's argument. Define the terms and add the appropriate notes to our text online.
- **Case studies:** For each of your group's assigned cases, you should create a brief annotation explaining why the case is significant (i.e. what does it prove for Jenner's thesis?).

| Group | Cases |
|-------|------------------|
| 1 | Cases VI–VII |
| 2 | Cases VIII–IX |
| 3 | Cases X–XI |
| 4 | Cases XII–XIII |
| 5 | Cases XIV–XV |
| 6 | Cases XVI–XVII |
| 7 | Cases XVIII–XIX |
| 8 | Cases XX–XXI |
| 9 | Cases XXII–XXIII |

Individual Work

Assignment #1: Find and Summarize Two Articles

Due Friday, February 8

Jenner's work on vaccination prompted a wide range of responses from professionals and the general public. To help us better understand the larger cultural conversation surrounding smallpox, vaccination, and scientific experimentation in Jenner's time, you will conduct research in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century periodicals. You should begin with a topic or question inspired by Jenner's text. (See below for tips on using search terms.) Select two articles relevant to your chosen topic and write a bibliographic citation and summary for each.

This assignment gives you practice in asking critical questions and finding your own answers. You will learn how to use the library's subscription databases, construct MLA-style bibliographies, and conduct historical research. You will also develop your understanding of how scholarly texts work.

Selecting articles: Using the library's subscription databases, you will search for eighteenth- or nineteenth-century magazine or newspaper articles about your chosen topic. You can search any of the following:

- **C19: The Nineteenth Century Index**—covers a wide range of British and American books, periodicals, and archival documents from 1770 to 1931. In a "Quick Search," click to view results from either the "Periodicals" or "Newspapers" category; in the advanced search ("Search Indexes"), check the boxes for these categories.
- **British Newspapers 1600–1900**—If you use "Basic Search," you can then choose filters from the left column to focus on categories like news or features.
- **Proquest Historical Newspapers**—covers mostly American newspapers but also includes the *Guardian & Observer*, *Irish Times*, and *Scotsman*.
- **London Times (1785–1985)**—C19 indexes the *London Times* but doesn't offer full-text articles. If you find an interesting reference in C19, check here for the full text.
- **New York Times Full-Text/Full-Image (1851–2007)**—starts a bit late for the beginning of Jenner's work, but it might be useful for tracking his legacy.

Try a variety of **search terms**. You can start by searching for "Edward Jenner," "smallpox," "cowpox," or "vaccination" to see what turns up. As you browse results, you might encounter other search terms to help you narrow it down. For example, you might combine "vaccination" with another search term like "safety," "compulsory," "anti," "opinion," "debate," "bill," "law," "child," or "death."

Most databases offer a quick view option (sometimes labeled "Article" or "View Article" as opposed to viewing an entire newspaper page) to help you determine whether the article is useful. Keep in mind that you will probably have to skim multiple items before finding something you want to work on. Once you've selected an article, **download the PDF file** and read it carefully.

NOTE: You probably will encounter reviews of Jenner's book (or reviews of other books on smallpox or vaccination). Reviews can be enlightening because they often express a clear opinion about the work or the controversy surrounding it. But beware of book notices and short reviews that merely summarize the text—these won't be useful.

Write a bibliographic citation for each article using MLA style. NOTE: The database will not automatically provide a properly formatted citation, so it's important that you refer to the *MLA Handbook*.

Write a summary of approximately 100–200 words for each article. Your summary does not need to offer a play-by-play account; you should decide which ideas and details are most interesting for your purposes and organize the summary accordingly. You may include direct quotations, but make sure they don't dominate your summary.

Sample Format:

| |
|---|
| Your Name |
| Course # |
| Professor's Name |
| Date |
| |
| Bibliographic Reference. Summary.... |
| |
| Bibliographic Reference. Summary.... |

Before class time on **Friday, February 8:**

- Submit your summary to our course site.
- Share the PDF files of the original articles with me through Google Drive.

We will discuss your findings in class on February 8.

Assignment #2: Research-based Annotation

Due: Monday, February 18

Using your research from Assignment #1, you will write an annotation of 200+ words to elucidate a passage from Jenner's text. Rather than simply defining vocabulary or summarizing a case, this note should provide background information, examples, opposing points of view, historical or cultural context, or a critical reading about the selected passage. For example, you could add a footnote to explain how the smallpox epidemic was treated by the press before or after the publication of Jenner's pamphlet, or how Jenner's contemporaries reacted to one of his claims. Or you could draw the reader's attention to one of Jenner's rhetorical devices and explain his target audience.

Review the articles you researched for Assignment #1 and consider what kind of information they provide. What question does your research answer? What questions does it raise? What does this knowledge add to your understanding of Jenner's text? How might this information help other readers? Once you know why we need this information, you can decide how to annotate the text.

Choose a passage in Part 1 or Part 2 of *Vaccination Against Smallpox* where you will anchor your footnote. You should already have some ideas of where your footnote belongs based on your initial research question, but spend some time thinking about the best placement. Sometimes research turns up unexpected things, and it might be that your information is more effective or relevant to a different part of the text.

NOTE: Don't just drop the footnote randomly into Jenner's text. If readers don't see any value in the information at that moment, the footnote becomes a distraction rather than a help. Your note should begin with a clear transition from Jenner's text.

Cite your source. If possible, try to credit your source directly within your sentence (e.g. The *London Times* reported on December 27, 1801, that...; According to the reviewer for the *Philosophical Quarterly* in 1799...). But either way, be sure to include the bibliographic citation at the end of your note.

Upload your annotation by Monday, February 18.