

Discussion leaders

ENGL 202: Engaging English

Many English classes (like this one!) are largely discussion-based, where lectures are not the sole focus of the class. Discussion between peers allows students to share ideas and work through different interpretations of a given piece of literature. It also allows you to think through course material in ways other than just listening to a lecture or just reading the book (you should still read the book, of course!).

For this assignment, you and a group of your peers will take control of the lecture. **In groups of 2-3, you will choose a day from our discussion of *Legendborn* and run discussion for roughly 10 minutes.** You will write discussion questions (I recommend preparing at least two questions), begin the conversation, and call on your classmates to contribute to the discussion. Your questions should be interpretive rather than factual—that is, ask questions that can't be answered in one sentence. For example, “Does love play a role in *Twelfth Night*?” has a simple answer. By making a simple change, however, that sentence can become “How does love play a role in *Twelfth Night*?”, which allows interpretive observations to be made. Discussion is more fun when there's actually something to discuss! You might also consider focusing on a specific passage in the novel and asking questions that allow you to explicate that passage as a class.

In addition to briefly running the class discussion, **you will also submit a short (1-2 pages) paper** where you submit your questions and explain your thought process behind your discussion leading. This is where you can explain how you divided up the work, how you and your partner(s) came to the questions and topics that you did, your thoughts on how running the discussion went, or anything else that you might like me to know.

This paper is due at 11:59 pm on the following class day after you lead discussion. In other words, if you led discussion on 4/6, your reflection paper would be due at 11:59 pm on 4/8, and so on. **This paper must be submitted on Brightspace (not via email) as a Word doc (.doc or .docx) or PDF. Any other file type will not be accepted and will receive a 0.** Please make sure that your paper is in double spaced 12-point Times New Roman with 1” margins. You should cite any quoted material in Chicago or MLA.

Although this is a group project, you will be graded individually. You may collaborate on writing the paper if you wish, but if you do so please include all of your names on the paper and please submit the file individually on Brightspace.

As with all assignments, I am happy to meet with you or your group to discuss your thoughts and help brainstorm.

This assignment is worth 20% of your grade.