

ENGLISH 10B – BRITISH LITERATURE 1660 TO 1832 – SPRING 2002
Website Discussion Board – Sections [letters]

To encourage you to think about the readings before section meetings, I am requiring you to post a message on the class website at least once each week. Additional posts are warmly welcomed but not required. You can use the website to raise ideas for class discussion, explore issues you are thinking about for your papers, ask questions about the readings, or continue conversations begun in section. It is an excellent place for those of you who are shy in class to venture forth your ideas. You should approach these postings as you would an in-class discussion.

Even if you are comfortable using class websites, please read this handout through at least once to make sure you understand the requirements for using the Discussion Board in English 10B.

What and when should I write?

Your message can be (1) a thoughtful question or comment about the readings or (2) a thoughtful response to a message posted by another student. Ideally, it should pertain to the text assigned for discussion that week, although you may also comment on other readings. A good posting is approximately 3-4 sentences in length and makes specific reference to the text (not necessarily a quotation) in a way that shows you have read and considered it. Personal comments are okay as long as they are pertinent to the topic at hand.

Messages must be posted by **10:00 pm each Thursday** to receive credit. A good strategy is to go online and post immediately after you finish the reading. Read through all the new messages before posting your own, to avoid repetition and see whether you have any responses to other students. It would also be a good idea to check the message board again before section. You do not have to post Week 1 or Week 10 (so you are responsible for 8 posts in all).

Here are some sample posts. This post receives very little, if any, credit. Did the student even do the reading?

“This novel was really, really good. At parts, it was a little graphic, but I think that made the novel better. I thought Butler's style, of making Dana go back to the past and then to the present was interesting.”

These posts are better, because they demonstrate original thinking and raise questions that can be discussed in class.

“I really liked this novel. The one thing that was hard for me to understand was why her husband was so indifferent to her when they both went back to 1976. I understand that it was 5 years for him back in the old days but why did he treat her different when they went back home? It seemed it me that the old south had rubbed off on him. Did he love her less now or did he want to treat her differently, maybe like a slave.”

“I think that time travel was a device used by Butler to bring the reality of the antebellum South into modern times, but it's not to be taken literally. Perhaps I'm wrong, but it seems to me that time travel occurred not so much in the physical realm, but in Dana's mind, who knew little about her ancestors and was thus "remembering" their story which she was never in fact told. Without time travel, the reader might have questioned her author-ity (authority as an author), but since she writes as if she had lived it firsthand, the suspension of disbelief is brought about more easily. Please tell me if this makes any sense at all.”

If you don't own a computer, you should be able to access the site for a few minutes each week: use a friend's computer, an on-campus lab, or dorm lab. In addition, public libraries usually provide computer access. All you need is a working internet browser. There is a list and map of UCLA's Computer Labs at <<http://computerlabs.clicc.ucla.edu>>

How do I access the website?

1. Go to [**course URL**] (or navigate from <ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu> or <my.ucla.edu>)
2. Click "Login." Your User Name is your Student ID, and your Password is the last four digits of your Social Security Number.
3. If you have problems logging in, click on the link "How Do I Login?" for further instructions. Visit URSA <www.ursa.ucla.edu> to verify that you are enrolled in the class. If you still experience problems, contact a campus computer support person or your TA.

How do I access the Discussion Board for my section?

1. Click on "Discussion Board," then on the topic with the letter for the section in which you are enrolled, i.e. "Section D" or "Section H." IMPORTANT: please do not post on Main – I will probably not see the message and you won't receive credit.
2. All the messages that have been posted since the last time you visited the Discussion Board will appear with the word "NEW" next to them in red. To view messages that you have read before, click on "All Messages." To see only new messages, click on "Show Unread."
3. To read a message, simply click on it. The message will pop up in a new window. You can close the window when you are finished to move on to the next message, or click "Next Message" to go the next message in the thread (the series of messages).

How do I post a message?

1. Click "Compose" to start a new message thread, or "Reply" or "Quote" to respond to an existing message. In all cases, a new window will pop up where you will compose your message.
2. If you are beginning a new message thread, you will need to fill in the subject. Begin with the week the posting is due. For example, "Week 3 – Christian imagery in Oroonoko."
3. Type your question or comment in the message field.
4. Click "Preview" to check your posting. Click "Edit" if you want to change anything, or "Post" to post it to the Discussion Board. Once a message is posted, it CANNOT be edited or changed.
5. To view the message you have just posted, click "Update Listing." If you ever seem to be missing messages that you saw before, make sure "All Messages" is selected.
6. **If you have any technical problems with logging in or posting your message, email the posting to me instead with a detailed description of the problem.** This way I will know you had your post prepared before the deadline and you can add it to the site later.

**Remember to logout and close your browser when you are finished.

Good luck with your discussions!