

This semester, we will use a blog to share our ideas outside of the classroom rather than using a journal or the discussion board in Blackboard. To get started, go to <http://WordPress.com> and create an account. Please use your City Tech e-mail address to sign up, and create a username that follows the pattern of first name and last initial. If you already have a WordPress account, you can simply change your nickname in the settings. Once you sign up for an account, I can make you an author on our blog so that you can write and edit your own posts. Until then, you will only be able to comment on others' posts.

Rather than each of you posting for each class, you will each be assigned to a group, and within your group you will take turns writing posts and responding to each other. Your group members will depend on your thoughtful and punctual work for their own assignment completion.

Before each class, one group member will write a reading response that should include a reaction to the reading. A thorough reading response will:

- Include at least 300 words
- Respond to the assigned reading
- Quote one passage specifically that you think is worth closer consideration (not included in the 300-word count)
- Discuss that passage in detail, considering:
 - what you think it means,
 - why it is significant,
 - how it conveys its meaning,
 - how it relates to the text as a whole,
 - how it connects to other texts we have looked at this semester
- Define vocabulary that you did not understand before, and explain how the definition makes sense in the passage

The other students in the group will then reply with comments about the post. Responders should:

- write a response of approximately 150 words using the comment function
- reflect on the points raised in the post
- connect the passage in the post with other passages from the text
- connect the passage in the post with other ideas from other texts we have examined
- consider what themes or problems the discussion raises that we can discuss in class