

# DISCUSSION PREPARATION AND GUIDING

## Assignment

During the semester you and a classmate will guide discussion of readings for a class session. Your goal for discussion guiding is to create critical questions you want the class to discuss. You will pose the questions to the class, ask for the class's opinion, and then share your own critique. It is your responsibility to sign-up for discussion guiding—I will not assign dates.

## Steps

The steps for this assignment are:

1. Signup for your class session with your partner.
2. Read your selection.
3. Meet with partner and create 5-7 critical questions.
4. Meet with me before that class day to discuss questions and determine your 3 critical questions.
5. Guide discussion over questions in class.

## Read and Create Questions

Once you've read your selections, your next task is to create a set of 5-7 questions to prepare for your meeting with me.

In composing questions, create open questions ("why", "how") instead of closed ("yes/no") questions. Open-ended questions encourage more class response and discussion. For example:

- closed question: "Did you find this essay interesting?"  
The answer to this question is yes or no; there is no opportunity for response or discussion.
- open question: "What does Rollins mean when she states that motherhood is outdated?"  
The answer here is more complicated and provides more opportunity for response and discussion.

Your questions must directly reference the selection, and not just the topic. I expect these to be original questions you and your partner have written.

## Meet with Instructor (before class day)

Each team must meet with me at 1 day before we will discuss your selection in class. You will bring your questions; we will then discuss them and make any necessary revisions. You must have read your selection and have your prepared questions ready for this meeting. I expect you to be able to talk thoughtfully with you about your selection and your questions.

It is your responsibility to arrange this meeting. Not meeting with me, meeting with me without questions, or meeting with me without having read your selections will result in a 5 point deduction from the 15 points available for this assignment.

## Guide Discussion

On the day that your selection is listed to be discussed in class, each team will work with me to guide the discussion of your questions. You will pose the questions to the class, ask for the class's opinion, and then share your own critical response.

The evaluation rubric for your discussion guiding is on the next page.

**SPEAK NOW,  
AND I WILL  
ANSWER\***

See the syllabus  
for specific dates

Matt Turner  
Fall 2011

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\* A. E. Housman "Shropshire  
Lad" 1896

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Points \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conference with instructor (before discussion date): \_\_\_\_\_

Date for discussion: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Discussion prep and guiding rubric<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Emerging</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
<u>Conference with Instructor</u> Discussion guiders' questions and discussion demonstrated preparation for the assignment				
<u>Discussion</u> Discussion guiders worked together to have engage using prepared questions				
<u>Discussion</u> Discussion guiders participated in class discussion by sharing their own critiques				

Notes: