

Question, Comment, and Connection Discussion Posts

Overview

I use discussion posts as a way to generate thoughts before we discuss certain readings in class. It's a way to prevent awkward silences and to give everyone a bit more confidence before arriving to class and having small and big group conversation.

Directions

You will need to come up with a **question, comment, and connection for each discussion post** unless otherwise specified. Here's what all of those mean.

Question: *Ask a question about the reading.* This can be an overall question, such as "What does Perl mean about recursive writing?" or a more specific one, "Why is Lamott writing about voices in her head, and what does that have to do with drafting?" No question is too big or small, but you should have at least one ready to pose in conversation.

Comment: *Make one comment, preferably 2-3 substantive sentences long.* You can agree or disagree with the reading, or you can highlight something that you find particularly useful. For example, "I really like Straub's idea of peer review, because it's much different than my previous experiences. I always got really awful feedback because people would only comment on my grammar, and I never felt like peer review could actually be useful. Straub's format for peer review of giving constructive and honest feedback sounds like a much better way to do this." This should not be a comment about your reading experience, meaning you should not write about how you like or don't like the writer's style or how easy or challenging the reading was. Focus on the content/ideas/argument of the reading.

Connection: *This is where you can make connections between readings or to your own experiences with writing, again 2-3 substantive sentences long.* "Perl's idea of recursive writing reminds me of Lamott, because Lamott's practice of drafting means she constantly goes back and revisits her ideas. This means that Lamott's drafting and writing process is recursive, just like Tony in Perl's study."

The writing is informal on these discussion boards-- you don't need to use formal language (although any quotations should still be referenced with a page number so someone else reading it in the class could find the quote).

These posts will be graded out of 10 points each. Grading breakdown works like this:

10 points	Satisfactory answer. You've answered the posted question(s), and the answer is the correct length (if length assigned). The answer shows engagement with the readings/texts appropriately; there's thought or questions.
5 Points	'Getting there': You're in the ballpark, but you've either not answered the question(s)

	fully, or the answer is lacking in length or depth in some way.
0 Points	"Unsatisfactory": writing is off topic, or does not engage with the posted questions; assignment may be missing or not submitted at all.