

## Blog Assignment

This semester you will be required to set up and maintain a blog. Blogs are great for getting ideas down in words and for getting feedback on your ideas from others. Eventually, you'll want to select at least five other blogs from the class to read regularly. Link them from your bookmarks and go to them every time you visit your blog. This gets a good community of thinkers together and talking. I'll make a list of everybody's blogs from the course links page, so you'll want to visit everyone's periodically, but try to keep a core of blogs that you will read all the time and respond to regularly.

The blog entries will be everything from a passing thought about teaching to a close reading of/response to a text, or from a request for more sources for an idea to a vent about your latest teacher or student experience. But BEWARE. Always know that this is a public forum and not a private diary. I expect professional discourse. It will be too difficult to blog everyday. You may get three days in a row but you'll inevitably miss days here and there. Just write as much as you can. Some will be long, some short. Some will be about class material. Some will discuss whatever you are thinking about or reading that day. Just get in the habit of writing as much as you can.

The blog is also good for keeping your own links page. As you find good articles, syllabi, or teaching resources on the web, post them to your blog. Some of them you'll want to also write about and link from a blog entry. Some you'll just want to remember, so add them to your bookmarks.

The goals for using blogs in this class:

1. to write as a basis for invention
2. to create community/communities in the class
3. to develop a web site that you will keep and maintain after the semester ends

The blog will hopefully be more than a class requirement. Continuing to write, think, and stay connected on the web is important for your development as a teacher.

### Set Up Blog

Before you log on to create your blog, think of a good name for it and a good subtitle/tag line. And then,

1. go to <http://www.blog-city.com>
2. click on free sign-up
3. select interface  
(it doesn't matter which one, you can change it later\*)
4. fill in info, click on step 2  
(if it does not go through scroll down to see if the name is already taken)
5. fill in info, write down your pw
6. click on the link to your page
7. put in email and pw to go to editing console

Once in the **editing console** you can do the following:

- to change your theme, click on themes from the editing console, and then on theme reset
- to change the subtitle click on "my blog header blog" under blogs in draft, change the tag line, click save and publish

### Set Up Links

You need to set up link categories that will go on the side of your main blog page (gutter) and add links to them over the semester. Start with these categories:

- blogs (to which you will add links to other student blogs in the class);
- links (to which you will add links to web pages about literature and or teaching as you come across them over the semester);
- about (if you have a web page of your own you want to link to it).

The first two categories are required for the class but you can add others as you like over the semester.

1. from the editing console, click on bookmarks
2. click on add/edit bookmark group
3. type in blogs as a category
4. select add to gutter
5. click save
6. click add/edit bookmarks
7. ask one of your neighbors for his/her name and blog url
8. select blog group
9. type his/her name in title and the url in the space for the url
10. click save

Repeat this for creating a link category. Do a quick google search to find a literature related page to post. As the semester progresses, add links to blogs from others in the class and continue to surf for good lit-links you want to remember.

### Sign Up for Blog-City Directory

Blog-city has a list of all of the blogs on its site. You'll need to set up a profile to be listed in this directory. Before you sign up, think of a short description for the kinds of things you think you'll be writing about. Doesn't even have to be a complete sentence. And then,

1. from the editing console, click on options
2. select profile
3. fill in info for blog profile  
(The first category should be educational. Another could be professional.)
4. be sure to mark the box to list you in the directory
5. click save
6. go to blog-city.com (should be a link at the bottom left)

7. click on community
8. select educational blogs
9. find your blog profile which should be listed alphabetically

\*\* At some point, you should skim these profiles and find one or two other education related blogs that seem interesting and are not written by someone in this class and link them from your bookmarks.

### Post First Blog Entry

For your opening entry, I want you to respond to the question, Why teach literature? Respond to both aspects of the question: why should literature be taught in general, and why do you teach literature. Try to write 2 or 3 paragraphs. Don't worry about it being perfect; you can revise it later.\*

1. from the editing console, click on add new blog entry
2. in the space provided write an introductory entry to your blog (don't forget the entry title)
3. click save and publish when you are done
4. when the page refreshes you can click the link to your blog at the top of the page to see your entry

(\* to revise your post just click the button to the left of the entry and repeat the process)