

Literature Circles – Digital Discussions

1. Choose a novel. You and your group will have online discussions of your approved book once a week for the next three weeks. At the conclusion of the three weeks, your group should be finished reading the book and you will prepare a presentation to share your experience with the class.
2. The digital discussions will occur in Microsoft Teams. Each week, I will create a channel in Teams for your group's discussion. When you log in and select the course, you should find your group's channel according to the book's title and the week number (e.g., The Kite Runner wk 1). Click on it to enter the discussion. You should not enter or post comments in other groups' channels (even just to say 'hi!'). A penalty will result from inappropriate commenting.
3. Each week's discussion is due on Sunday night by midnight. After the week has concluded, I will log on, read, and grade the discussions according to the discussion rubric. Even though it is a group discussion, each student receives his/her own grade.
4. Each discussion grade counts as a quiz grade. Then, at the conclusion of the discussions, your group will make a presentation (approx. 10-15 minutes) in class, which will count as a test grade. See the presentation rubric for guidelines.
5. I suggest getting your group members' phone numbers so you can text/call if there is a problem in the group—e.g., someone doesn't show up for the discussion. Be sure all group members are clear about when the discussion for the week will be held.

1	Discussion totals less than 15 minutes or has multiple significant lapses	There is little evidence of reading and preparation.	The student does not ask questions to promote discussion.	Depth	The student's comments are largely empty or simple affirmations of what someone else has said (e.g., yes, that's what I thought).	Variety	The student sticks to the same idea throughout the discussion.	Participation	The student rarely comments or makes comments that hinder the discussion.
2	Discussion totals less than 20 minutes or has multiple lapses	The student seems unsure of the reading and does not seem to have prepared.	The student asks few questions to promote discussion.	Questions	The student's comments stay on the surface and rarely empty or simple affirmations of what someone else has said (e.g., yes, that's what I thought).	The student only considers one or two topics or perspectives.	The student only sticks to the same idea throughout the discussion.	The student only contributes sporadically to the conversation or hinders the discussion.	The student rarely comments or makes comments that hinder the discussion.
3	Discussion is somewhat short and has lapses	The student appears to have read but does not seem prepared for the discussion.	Some of the questions the student asks and further thoughtful, insightful discussion.	Depth	The student's comments generally stay on the surface but sometimes move beyond the surface.	The student considers a limited number of topics or perspectives in the discussion.	The student sticks to the same idea throughout the discussion.	The student contributes to the discussion but on a more limited basis or without encouraging and participating.	The student contributes to the discussion but does not try to involve others in the discussion.
4	Discussion lasts for nearly 30 minutes or may have small lapses	The student appears to have read some of the appropriate portion of the book and to have prepared for discussion.	Most of the questions the student asks and further thoughtful, insightful discussion.	Questions	The student's comments usually demonstrated an understanding of the book beyond the surface.	The student considers a wide variety of topics or perspectives in the discussion.	The student sticks to the same idea throughout the discussion.	The student regularly contributes to the discussion but does not try to involve others in the discussion.	The student regularly contributes to the discussion but does not try to involve others in the discussion.
5	Discussion lasts for at least 30 minutes without lapses	The student appears to have read the appropriate portion of the book and to have prepared for discussion.	The student asks questions that provoke and further thoughtful, insightful discussion.	Depth	The student's comments demonstrate a high degree of understanding of the book beyond the surface.	The student considers a wide variety of topics or perspectives in the discussion.	The student sticks to the same idea throughout the discussion.	The student regularly contributes to the discussion but does not try to involve others in the discussion.	The student regularly contributes to the discussion but does not try to involve others in the discussion.

Literature Circle Presentations

Background on Author	
Information about Genre	
Historical Context	
Basic plot description (including setting) w/o spoilers	
Characters (Brief description/significance)	
Themes	
Literary Elements & Style (structure, symbolism, motifs, point of view, language, etc.)	
Favorite Passages	
Personal Responses	
Discussion of Process	
Visual Aid	
Group Participation	
Organization	
Total:	