Discussion Questions

Writing About Literature

Compose 4 original questions, <u>3 objective and 1 subjective</u>, for the text we are currently scheduled to discuss. Bring 2 (two) copies to class. You will give one copy to me, and use the other for discussion with your group. This second copy should be covered with additional handwritten notes by the time the discussion segment has concluded.

Objectives

- Demonstrate a competent understanding of the contents, themes, and nuances of the assigned text.
- Engage in higher order thinking in relation to the assignment.

Activities

Compose three <u>Objective Questions</u> to the reading. Objective questions are the sort to which there is an unambiguously right answer. However, your question must go beyond the sort easily answerable by nothing more than a quick check-in at *Wikipedia* or *Schmoop*.

- **Unacceptable:** Where is Juliet standing when she says "Oh Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? This is far too obvious.
- **Suitable**: Why is Juliet's mother surprised when Juliet responds with dismay to the news that she is to marry Paris? This answer requires your fellow classmate to know that a) Juliet was previously neutral on the marriage issue but b) now she has distinctly firm opinions because c) she's married Romeo, but Mom doesn't know that!

Compose one <u>Subjective Question</u>. This sort of question's answer is open to interpretation, e.g., *In 1.3.43-48 the nurse reminiscences about a time when the young Juliet fell down, and her husband made a joke about Juliet's future as a wife. Why do you think Shakespeare includes this scene at this particular moment in the play?*

Answer your own subjective question in at least one paragraph of no less than 200 words. Make sure to include at least one (1) relevant quotation from the text. The quotation(s) will not be included in the word count.

Materials: The text currently under discussion; word processing and printing equipment.

Things you might look at:

- Consider researching the etymology of a particular word in the Oxford English Dictionary.
- Research the bio. of the author or the time in which the text was composed for greater background understanding.

Evaluation: These questions represent 30% of your grade. I will return *a few* of them to you, in order let you know if you're work is up to snuff or if it needs improvement.

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