Blog posts & "bring it to the table" reading discussion assignments
Due weekly

Purpose

These assignments will provide you the opportunity to express your thoughts and opinions of the course readings both in writing and verbal discussion. As well, you will be self-directing the weekly conversations by "bringing to the table" something from the reading that you found interesting or wanted to explore further. I know class discussion is sometimes challenging (I am an introvert), but I am hoping the blog posts will give everyone equal chance to express responses and ideas. There are no wrong answers, we will look at this as an exploration of a new form. I only expect that discussions (blog and classroom) are respectful and considerate.

Method

Every week you will respond to both the chapter and online reading in a **2-part blog post** that does both of the following:

1. You will summarize your thoughts on the readings in a **big-picture** way: what does this genre bring to digital writing? How do these works need their medium to express their message? Things you learned or have questions about.
2. You will choose **1 reference** in the chapter—theoretical, comparative, or literary—to explore further and "bring to the table" for Tuesday discussion. Here you can post a link to the work (or author, etc.), what you found intriguing, and what you discovered in your investigation. Think of this like an introduction to a work or author or musician, etc. but also a mini-close reading on a text we won't all get to read.

Your blog post must be posted by **Sunday at midnight**. In addition, you will **respond to at least one** of your peers' posts before class on Tuesday. You will be graded on your posts and responses, as well as the Tuesday "bring it to the table" discussion. You will likely not have the chance to discuss the work you choose to explore every week, but your comments and responses (and general participation) to the discussion will be noted.

Audience

Your peers and professor **BUT** also keep in mind that our course blog is in the public domain. Keep your responses professional, thoughtful, and ideally free of typos ☺.

Length & format

I expect a thoughtful, substantial, two-paragraph blog post (one paragraph for each part of the response), plus a few sentences for the reply comments (300-500 words total). If these continue into a conversation, all the better! Links to the work (or authors, etc.) you are "bringing to the table" should be included, as well as images if you would like. In addition to major assignments, this will satisfy our writing requirement for the semester. Points will be allocated between blog posts, replies, & discussion. These weekly assignments make up a total of **30% of your course grade** (3 points each, there will be a total of 10 graded).