

Discussion Cards Assignment

Before the Discussion

- a. Complete the assigned reading.
- b. Notecard 1: Generate a discussion question that everyone would be able to respond to, even if they didn't complete the assigned reading. It should connect to the text in a meaningful way. Example:

How is it that one very small group can dominate another group that is ten times larger?
(from Lord of the Flies)

- c. Notecard 2: Generate another discussion on a separate notecard. This question should be related directly to the text. This can be a question about setting, characterization, symbolism, irony, style, diction, or any other literary device/rhetorical technique. Along with the question, include a quotation that the question is based on and chapter/section reference. Example:

Question: What is ironic about the following passage? How does the irony characterize Hester Prynne?

Quotation: "On the breast of her gown, in fine red cloth, surrounded with an elaborate embroidery and fantastic flourishes of gold thread, appeared the letter A. It was so artistically done, and with so much fertility and gorgeous luxuriance of fancy, that it had all the effect of a last and fitting decoration to the apparel which she wore, and which was of a splendour in accordance with the taste of the age, but greatly beyond what was allowed by the sumptuary regulations of the colony."

Reference: Chapter 2

- d. Write your responses on the back of the card.

During the Discussion

1. In your groups, do a read-around of all the questions. Do not read your responses from the back of the card—just the questions.
2. Choose two or three questions the group feels would lead to productive, meaningful class discussion.
3. Discuss those questions in your groups, making specific connections to the text and to ideas beyond the text. Students should take notes during this part of the activity.
4. Choose *one* of your two to three questions to offer to the full class for follow-up discussion. This should be your group's best question, the one that will yield the best thinking and discussion from the full class.
5. As a class, we will discuss one question from each group.

After the Discussion

Using your notes and new ideas from the class discussion, write a well-organized paragraph in which you summarize and respond to one of the questions that was discussed as a class. This should not be the discussion question your group chose. Make connections to the reading assignment and also to ideas beyond the text.