

## Some notes on how to have an academic discussion on our Facebook page

I want to stress the importance of using **discussion threads** on Facebook. We don't want to see 40 individual posts each week. There should really only be a handful of threads each week: if someone already posted about a topic/discussion question, and you have similar thoughts, reply to their post rather than beginning your own post. This makes it easier for everyone to see the discussion—threads also make it easier to navigate the discussion group. If you're the first person to post on a particular topic/text/discussion question, you can of course frame the discussion in any way you'd like. If you're responding, here are a few models to help you create a discussion. Feel free to use these models in your responses:

Rebecca, I agree with your point about \_\_\_\_\_, and it reminds me of another part of the poem...

Rebecca, your observation about \_\_\_\_\_ is fantastic. I have a similar idea/observation/point...

Rebecca, while I understand your point about \_\_\_\_\_, I have a different perspective...

While many of you on this thread read the text in xyz way, I don't see it like that. My reading is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of you argue \_\_\_\_\_, while others argue \_\_\_\_\_. My position is \_\_\_\_\_.

**The takeaway point here:** you're going to need to read what other students have already posted before you write your own post. That's how a discussion would work in a face-to-face class, and that's how it should work online too. If you post your comment as an individual post, and just below is a long thread on the same topic, we'll all be kind of annoyed that you didn't scroll down and read what others have already written.