Discussion Panel Presentation:

At the beginning of the semester, you signed up for two discussion panel presentations. On your presentation days, you will complete mini-arguments and use those as the basis for your presentation. You will be presenting along with a panel of several other students. These presentations will guide the class discussion.

Note: Mini-arguments should only be completed for your presentation days.

Mini-Argument Guidelines:

Mini-arguments are close readings of short, specific passages in the text accompanied by a unique argument or claim about the passage(s). They should follow MLA guidelines for written assignments and should range between 500 and 750 words. Mini-arguments should focus on the reading that is due for the day on which they are being presented.

Heading for mini-arguments should look like this:

Name
EN 3414
Mini-Argument (Due Date)

Tips for successful Mini-Arguments:

• Avoid empty generalizations. Always support your claims with evidence from the text.
• Because the mini-arguments are rather brief, you do not need to write extensive introductions or conclusions. One or two lines is enough. Use the space of the response to do the work of close reading and analysis.
• A close reading requires you to closely examine the language/aesthetics of a chosen passage; this means citing lines/words from the text and meticulously working with them.
• Always explain why a particular quote matters. That is, make sure to “sandwich” your quotes between your own words. Do not simply list quotes as “examples” of a theme or topic.
• To assert your main argument (thesis), use “I argue,” “I claim,” “I contend,” etc. Use active verbs to make your claim and avoid the passive voice (i.e. “It can be argued…”).