

Exploration and Discovery I  
Core 106 Section 10  
Fall Semester 2015: Professor McDonald  
Lewis & Clark College  
August 28, 2015

Introductory Assignment:

This is a very short assignment, and its goal is to give you a warm up exercise for the reading, writing, and discussion yet to come.

It will also give you a chance to test the Moodle upload process, which you will use every time you upload a response to the class readings. A “response” is a 200-word summary of your thoughts and questions about the readings before the class begins.

I want you to read Orwell’s *Politics and the English Language*. Ordinarily, I’d ask you to write a response about that, and we’ll discuss it briefly on Monday.

This time, just respond to the question below. Write your response, save it, and upload it. For most of us, Microsoft Word is a good tool for this simple job, but you can upload a text file, for example. Don’t worry about the file format unless I tell you it’s a problem.

Be sure to put your name somewhere in the document.

**Your assignment:**

Suppose you meet a sophisticated, literate, friendly visitor from another planet. Imagine, perhaps, Mr. Spock from *Star Trek*, without the emotional baggage.

Your new friend is unfamiliar with human emotion, and she wants you to explain two words.

The first word is **happiness**. The second word is **boredom**.

**Your assignment: explain happiness and boredom to your new friend.**

**But examples from your own life will mean nothing to her. So try to explain what the words mean, without resorting to examples.**

**An explanation such as, “Happiness is two kinds of ice cream...” will not help her. Neither will “Boredom is a PTA meeting in the summertime.”**

**Write as much as you like, but I’m looking for a combined response around 200 – 300 words. To illustrate, this document has about 320 words.**