

# **ENGL/ DIHU 155**

## **Reading, Writing, and Making with Technology in the Humanities**

Week 5 Tutorial

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# Reminder

	Jan 5-9	Jan 12-16	Jan 19-23	Jan 26-30	Feb 2-6	Feb 9-13	Feb 16-20	Feb 23-27	Mar 2-6	Mar 9-13	Mar 16-20	Mar 23-27	Mar 29-Apr 3	Exam Period
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Group 1	Writing Diagnostic	Grade Contract				Mid-Term Contract Renegotiation								Final Self Assessment
Group 2		Library Orientation Module	Library Citation Module											
Group 3			In class essay—formative; tutorial cancelled			Outside class time revision for students whose assignments don't pass		In class essay			Outside class time revision for students whose assignments don't pass	Revision presentation—summative		
Group 4													Mandatory Exam Prep Lecture and Tutorial	Final Exam—summative

\*no Friday tutorial; last week of class

Essay Revisions must be completed in-person Tuesday or Wednesday of next week

February 10th and 11th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Grade Contract renegotiation due week 6 **8**

You must rewrite this even if you are maintaining your current grade contract

You can change your grade beforehand – this can lead to lighter revisions on your essay

To renegotiate your grade early, reach out to myself and Dr. Murphy via canvas messenger.

Engagement assignments week 6

# Reminder

## Readings for Next Week

- Okorafor, Nnedi. *The Book of Phoenix*. (Read Second half by lecture.)
- *They Say I Say* Chapters 8 and 9 (Tying it all together)

# Reminder

## Week 5 Reading

- Okorafor, Nnedi. *The Book of Phoenix*. (Read first half by lecture.)
- Jorge Luis Borges, "[The Library of Babel](#)." 1941

# Reminder

Office Hours

[Sign Up Sheet](#)

Fridays 10:00 – 12:00

2025W1\_0

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▼ Important Documents

- Grading Rubric 2025W1
- Office Hours Sign Up**
- Individual Grade Contract 2025W1
- Contract Grading Explanation 2025W1
- Individual Grade Tracking Spreadsheet
- Library Course Reserves

# 10 Minutes Writing Prompts:

## *The Book of Phoenix & The Library of Babel*

### *The Book of Phoenix*

- What themes have you identified in the book so far?
- Identify the antagonists and protagonists in *The Book of Phoenix* and discuss their relationship
- *The Book of Phoenix* is described as a Sci-Fi. Are there any other genres that you believe it could fall under, and why? If not, why not?

### *The Library of Babel*

- What themes have you identified in the story?
- Can you think of any related stories or important cultural context for this work?
- What is the setting? (Past or future? Physical design of the library) and what is the setting's significance to the story or themes?

# What is a 'theme' in literature?

A theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature. One key characteristic of literary themes is their universality, which is to say that themes are ideas that not only apply to the specific characters and events of a book or play, but also express broader truths about human experience that readers can apply to their own lives.

For example, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (about a family of tenant farmers who are displaced from their land in Oklahoma) is a book whose themes might be said to include the inhumanity of capitalism, as well as the vitality and necessity of family and friendship.

## Some additional key details about theme:

All works of literature have themes. The same work can have multiple themes, and many different works explore the same or similar themes.

Themes are sometimes divided into *thematic concepts* and *thematic statements*. A work's thematic concept is the broader topic it touches upon (love, forgiveness, pain, etc.) while its thematic statement is what the work says about that topic. For example, the thematic concept of a romance novel might be *love*, and, depending on what happens in the story, its thematic statement might be that "Love is blind," or that "You can't buy love."

Themes are almost never stated explicitly. Oftentimes you can identify a work's themes by looking for a repeating symbol, **motif**, or phrase that appears again and again throughout a story, since it often signals a recurring concept or idea.

"Theme" *LitCharts*, 30 January 2026,  
<https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/theme>



## 'Think – Pair – Share' Activity – The Book of Phoenix

We are going to read a passage from The Book of Phoenix

On your own, you are going to write out your first impressions about this passage – themes or anything else literary worth noting

You are going to create a small evidence chart (as per the Acheson reading)

“One must stop time to listen to a story. The storyteller starts it again.

She starts it in her own place, in her own moment, in her own point of view. As long as you listen, she is in charge of your destiny. You and the storyteller share everything, even your existence.

Listen...

I started picking up the local accent. I could never fit in, so that wasn't the reason. I just liked the sound of it. I missed my love Saeed, my friend Mmuo, the other Tower 7 prisoners who weren't so nice to me. Speaking like the Ghanaians reminded me of them all. Plus, after all that had happened, it felt good to be different from what I had been, yet the same. That which was me would never change. That which was me could survive death. Over and over.

I was Phoenix.”

## Evidence chart and first impressions from Acheson's Examples

### Third Version of My Chart: Adding Evidence About Social Context

	MATERIAL REALITY	MARRIAGE	SENSUOUSNESS	EMOTION
Poem	"the plums" 2 "the icebox" 4 "breakfast" 8 "that" 3, "which" 5 (deictics)	Title "I/me," "you" "icebox" 4, "breakfast" 8 (domesticity) "you were probably saving" 6-7	"I have eaten" 1 "delicious" 10 "sweet" 11 "cold" 12	Title "I/me," "you" "Forgive me" 9
Reference Works	Dictionary: Anglo-Saxon words	Biography: Williams's marriage	Dictionary: plum	Edition: "Reply"
Social and Historical Contexts	Women's work labour intensive Food an important part of women's lives	Nuclear family	Intimacy in marriage	Wife isolated

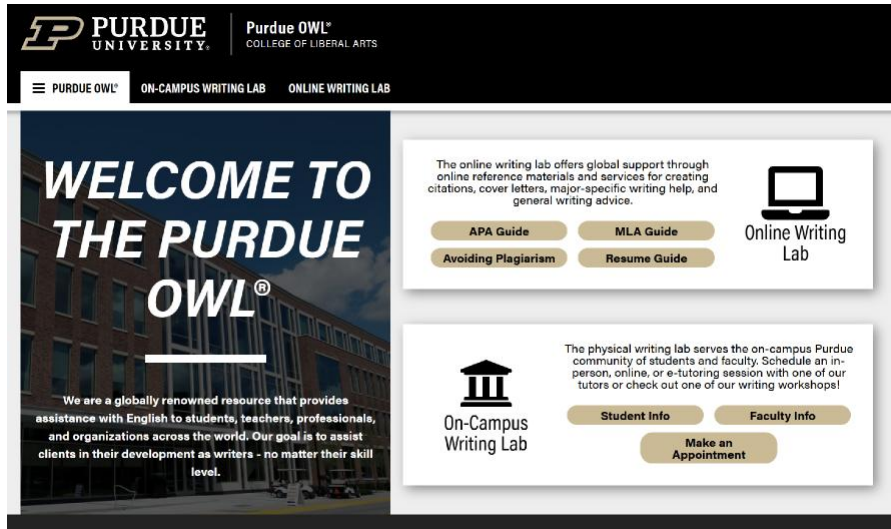
### FIRST IMPRESSIONS, REVIEWED

My first impressions, from my close reading of the poem, were as follows:

1. "This Is Just To Say" is about sensual, moral, and interpersonal experience in the material, everyday world.
2. "This Is Just To Say" is about relationships between people and about how these relationships are shaped by use of language.
3. "This Is Just To Say" is about poetry and how it is different or the same as everyday acts of communication.

# Citation Guide Resource

## Purdue OWL



The screenshot shows the Purdue OWL website. The header includes the Purdue University logo and the text "Purdue OWL® COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS". Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "PURDUE OWL", "ON-CAMPUS WRITING LAB", and "ONLINE WRITING LAB". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large image of a Purdue building with the text "WELCOME TO THE PURDUE OWL®" and a paragraph about the resource. The right column contains two sections: "Online Writing Lab" and "On-Campus Writing Lab". The "Online Writing Lab" section includes a description of the lab's services and links to "APA Guide", "MLA Guide", "Avoiding Plagiarism", and "Resume Guide". The "On-Campus Writing Lab" section includes a description of the lab's services and links to "Student Info", "Faculty Info", and "Make an Appointment".

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## WELCOME TO THE PURDUE OWL®

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The online writing lab offers global support through online reference materials and services for creating citations, cover letters, major-specific writing help, and general writing advice.

**Online Writing Lab**

APA Guide MLA Guide  
Avoiding Plagiarism Resume Guide

The physical writing lab serves the on-campus Purdue community of students and faculty. Schedule an in-person, online, or e-tutoring session with one of our tutors or check out one of our writing workshops!

**On-Campus Writing Lab**

Student Info Faculty Info  
Make an Appointment