

**Dr. Tisha Brooks**  
**ENG 477**  
**Toni Morrison: Beyond Fiction**

**Digital Humanities Project Overview:**

One of the requirements for this course is a collaborative digital humanities project on Toni Morrison that we will complete by the end of February for dissemination to the broader SIUE community during both Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March). This project is worth 150 points. The goal of this project is to introduce the larger SIUE community to Morrison's nonfictional writing. To do this, we will pull key passages from her writings (5-7 lines max) and share our recorded reflections about them online.

We will use Blackboard to share the passages and a rough draft of our written reflections with each other. This will enable us to receive feedback on our posts and will ensure that we aren't all writing on the same passage! You also have the ability to edit your posts in Blackboard, so feel free to return and make changes as you continue to think about the passage and as you consider any feedback that you receive.

After revising and polishing your reflections, you will record them (ideally using your Smartphone or other recording device). Please let me know ASAP if you do not have access to a recording device. Our exhibit will be hosted online via Padlet, a virtual sharing wall, where students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to listen to our recordings of Morrison's writings and our reflections. In preparation for this online exhibit, you will need to post your key passage and recorded reflection to the Padlet wall that I've created for the course. I will provide a link to access this shared "wall" in Bb.

**Key Dates:**

**F 2/7:** Submit key passage and rough draft of reflection to Bb discussion forum by 11:59pm

**Sun 2/16:** After revising your passage/reflection, submit final passage and recorded reflection to Padlet by 11:59pm

**Forum Instructions:**

Use this discussion space to share ideas, suggestions, and to brainstorm for our class project. This is also where you should post significant passages or quotes that you find from Morrison's lectures, speeches, memoir, essays and/or critical writings. You will find a large collection of these in our book, *What Moves at the Margin*. You are also welcome to choose a passage from her critical text, *Playing in the Dark*, an excerpt of which can be accessed via Bb, as well as any of her nonfiction essays that I've uploaded to Bb. When posting a key passage, share your response to it and your reflections. Consider the following questions to help focus your response:

- Why did you choose this passage or quote?
- What does it reveal or demonstrate about Morrison as a writer, intellectual, teacher, etc?
- Was there anything in this passage that surprised you? What new discovery did you make?
- How does the passage impact your view of the world, education, literature, family, politics, spirituality, race, gender, etc?

- How might others (consider especially those in the SIUE community) benefit from Morrison's words? **Note:** Keep your audience in mind. Assume the audience is *not* in our class and is unfamiliar with Toni Morrison. This means your writing needs to be more focused and needs to have a clearer context than for a typical in-class response.

Finally, remember that your participation in this discussion forum is one of the central ways that I will document and assess your participation in this collaborative project. In addition to your participation in this forum, your grade for the project will be determined by the thoughtfulness and clarity of your response, as well as your successful submission of the required materials to Bb and to Padlet by the posted due dates.

### **Guidelines for Recording Your Passage/Reflection & Submitting to Padlet**

1. After selecting your quoted passage and revising your written reflection, record yourself reading both aloud (smartphones have a high-quality recorder). Please let me know ASAP if you do not have access to a recording device.
2. Given the size of our class, we need to keep recordings to approximately 2 minutes in length. To meet this goal, aim for a total word count of 250-300 words for the quotation and your reflection.
3. When recording, choose a quiet, unoccupied room, preferably one with a door.
4. Speak slowly, clearly, and enunciate your words.
5. Try varying the tone and rhythm of your voice to add emphasis as you read and to keep the listener engaged.
6. Play back your recording to check for background noise and interference.
7. Have a friend listen to your recording to check for clarity.
8. Please include the following info in your Padlet submission: your first and last name, the title from which you have taken your quotation, as well as your chosen passage.
9. All Padlet submissions are due by Sunday, 2/16 at 11:59pm. **Note:** a link to access the Padlet wall be posted in the Bb discussion forum after the rough draft due date.

\*I am composing an introduction for our project and will post it to Blackboard along with sample recordings from a past class for you to review as you begin working on this assignment. Let me know if you have questions along the way!