

For your end of the year project, you will be starting your own blogs so you can publish your own writing online for anyone to read. Your blog will ultimately chronicle your experiences reading a non-fiction novel that we will begin in the near future. In the meantime you will be setting up, naming, and creating the environment for your blog and creating some practice entries so you’re ready to go once you start reading. Here’s the basic overview:



You can think of a blog as a couple of different things. It’s a website, a journal/diary, a discussion forum. Basically a blog is a Web site on which an individual or group of users record opinions, information, etc. on a regular basis. Many people have them from highly-paid professionals to people who just like to write and publish regularly.









You will be using your blogs to record your thoughts and analyses of texts we read in class. You will be given regular prompts that you will need to respond to on your blog and publish for everyone to read.

For our class, we will be writing our blogs using the website weebly.com.

Weebly is a website that allows users to set up free blogs. Be careful not to sign up for a paid account. The great thing about Weebly is that you should be able to do everything for FREE!

Go to www.weebly.com and make sure you are on the page that says “sign up for free.”

1. Enter your full name (First Last).
2. Enter your email address. **USE THE EMAIL ADDRESS THAT YOU WERE GIVEN THROUGH OUR THE SCHOOL!** (firstlast@students.rths.k12.il.us). You should also use the same password that is attached to your gmail. This way your teacher can access your blog to help you out. Click on “Get Started.”
3. Next, click on the blog button, as this will be the focus for your site. This will prompt you to click on a theme. Choose one (you can always go back and pick a different theme later).
4. Name your blog. You want your blog name to have personality. It may take a couple of tries to come up with a name that hasn’t been taken by somebody else, but don’t let that deter you. Be creative!
	1. You will HAVE to keep the .Weebly.com portion of your blog title.
5. Once you have filled out the information on this page, click “continue.” A quick tutorial video may pop up. You may watch this or exit out by clicking the **x** in the top right corner.
6. Now you are ready to customize your blog. Create a title. Write a quick bio about yourself as an author.
7. Next you can begin trying different themes. Under the design tab, you can change the font or theme of your blog. Continue clicking on different tabs to see the customizable options that are offered.
8. Once you are done, give me your information so I can keep track of it.

*When we have our first prompt, you will create a new blog post (blue button labeled “new post”) to respond to the prompt. I will walk you through this process in class. When finished responding to the prompt, always click the orange “publish” button in the right hand corner. This updates your new information to the public.*

**Some general rules about blogging for this class:**

* First and foremost, you obviously have to **keep your writing appropriate and congenial**. Because anybody will be able to view your posts, you need to use this tool strictly as a force for good. Remember also that because your writing will be public, you will want it to be of the highest quality, so remember to proofread methodically before you publish. You may even want another student or your teacher to look for any errors before you post.
* **Be thorough and professional**. You may not necessarily be given length limits for your posts, but they will have to thoroughly answer the question you are being asked. Don’t look at these assignments as having to fulfill a quota. Think of them as opportunities to truly express your ideas and opinions on significant issues.
* **Don’t get arrested**.Okay, maybe that’s a little intense, but here’s the deal: we’ve talked about how to properly cite material. If you are publishing work for anybody and everybody to read you have to do it correctly. In the instances you paraphrase or quote from other sources in your blog posts, make sure you’re documenting correctly.