To begin, visit http://wareh.wikia.com and carefully follow the “instructions for students” posted there. Allow sufficient time for account creation and learning the ropes.

Follow the link to “Emerson Aphorism Project.” Note the external links: these (in combination with Google, of course) will be useful sources for online Emerson texts. Our entire project will be published in three long pages linked from here: January, February, and March.

**When it is your cohort’s turn to post aphorisms**

(1) Choose and write.

You have two choices for the Emerson text to which you will respond: the one printed under your aphorism’s due date (in the anthology at Moodle/Files), or the one for the previous day. Once you have made your choice, you should compose your own aphorism that grows out of your reflection on what Emerson has written. The entire point of this exercise is to engage you *creatively* in the kind of writing we read in our course. Thus the main criterion for success is that what you write is interesting and well expressed. Please use words that are comfortable to you: just because you are reading a text that may seem pretentious or high-flown, across the distance of years and cultural milieu, that’s no excuse for you to write pretentiously or to misuse words you think are more appropriate than your own! Style counts, but based on how persuasive and strong it is, not based on how lofty its register is.

You are asking, “What’s the most interesting thought I can frame about this topic?” (and, “What *is* the topic?”) You may also want to ask—since we read a wide variety of authors of different periods and styles—“What would the author we’ve been studying recently think about this? And how would he or she write about a subject like this?”

The idea should also be one you are interested in committing to—at least as an interesting writing experience (I can’t police your inner faithfulness to it!). I want you to appreciate, when we read the bold and sweeping judgements of famous writers, that they are human beings like you: literature, however admirable and artful, can only be something an imperfect and opinionated (maybe a very unlikely or uncertain) person has presumed to set down on paper.

My January 1 example should not be followed closely at all. It’s a bit too much an analysis of what Emerson is saying; sometimes you may be stuck on that level, but it will be better if you can frame something that you feel is your own wisdom (spoken in response to and after reflection on what Emerson says), artfully expressed in a way you are committed to.

So, creative is good. But the connection should be clear and explained. If necessary, add a comment of your own (as I have done) to explain the connection, or to tell us what inspirations and sources you’re drawing on. (If you have simply borrowed the words or ideas of someone else without making them your own and giving due attribution, you have committed plagiarism and may be punished with an F in the course.)
(2) Post Emerson’s aphorism.

If you are the first one to post on your chosen Emerson text, you have a preliminary chore.
a) Create a level-two section header with the text’s date. Be sure you are placing this correctly relative to the other texts on the month-page.
b) Immediately below, create a level-three section header in the form “Emerson: Title,” where “Title” is your own brief descriptive title indicating Emerson’s topic or idea.
c) Immediately below, insert Emerson’s text. If it includes poetry, use indentation (as in my January 1 entry) to ensure correct formatting.
d) At the end, give an indented reference, by title, to the work of Emerson from which the quotation is taken (this will depend on your own research), and a link to a complete online text.


(3) Post and sign your aphorism.

a) Below Emerson’s aphorism (and any previous student aphorisms), use a level-three section header in the form “Yourname: Title.”
b) Immediately below, insert your aphorism. At the end, write ~~~~ (which automatically inserts your signature and a timestamp).
c) If you have a comment of your own, that belongs in a level-four section called “Comments” beneath your aphorism, as a bulleted point. This should also be signed. (See below for comments.)

When it is your cohort’s turn to post commentary

The key thing to understand is that you are showing thoughtful consideration of your classmates’ work. Do not analyze Emerson (though you should consider the relationship between the student aphorism and Emerson’s text). You must post responses to three of the student aphorisms from the past two or three days.

a) Find or create a level-four section called “Comments” below the student aphorism to which you are responding.
b) Below any previous comments, add your own as a bulleted point (*). If you write more than one paragraph, insert <p> as a separator. Don’t forget to sign and timestamp your comment by adding ~~~~ at the end.
c) Also feel free to reply to any other comments: indent beneath them to create a properly threaded conversation.

*Comment comment yada yada...<p>And another thing yada yada...~

[[User:Wareh|Wareh]] 14:53, January 2, 2011 (UTC)
: “That’s a good point, and I also noticed how he gave the nature imagery an interesting twist by speaking of “rot.” ~~~~