

January 8, 2012

Dear Students –

I regret to inform you that I am no longer your teacher. I did not up and quit, nor was I fired. I am enjoined from providing you with further information at this time.

Please know that it pains me incredibly to leave you in the lurch right before the end of the semester. I was very much looking forward to watching your growth over the course of the year.

I wanted to see your faces as you perused your writing in *Aspiracy*. I wanted to watch you transform into independent thinkers of an evolving generation.

I would hope that you are encouraged and inspired to complete the work that was assigned over the break, as many of your grades are much lower right now than they were at the end of Q1, due in large part to exams and essays. So, please study (and use in conversation) your vocabulary words, and write those essays!

I was also super excited to see your utopian planets!

I do not know who will teach you, who will grade your work or who will enter your Semester 1 grades. Questions about such logistics should be directed to Dr. Bird.

If you learn one thing from me, please let it be my primary belief that you should have faith in your unique points of view and your intelligence and that in order to really grow you should resist the temptation to outsource your thinking. Having someone else do your thinking is akin to having someone else live your life.

No one else has your perspective!

So, read the board. Read the directions. Annotate the directions. Discuss with your peers. Make each assigned task a cave and you a spelunker on an adventure of discovery.

I care about each one of you immensely, including and especially those of you who challenged me. You are the feisty ones who have an innate sense of self. Keep going on that path. Respectfully, yes, but keep going.

And embrace the written word as though it were a wild weed that needs both pruning and the light of the sun.

Warm regards and best wishes,

Ms. Kittelson