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Writers Memo—Genre
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After a lot of debate and back and forth bickering in my mind I chose to create a website for my students. At my district I have been introduced to Moodle, but I have had no time, or really any training on how to use it. Moodle is a huge undertaking if you have never done it before. Check it out sometime. I plan to use Moodle next year to connect with my students and parents. I chose this website as a way to get started on the web. This is a first step or brainstorm about what should and should not be included on a class website. Next fall should prove easier to set up a site with handouts and announcements.

My revisions came in waves, and, truth be told, I have more to go. I started with a huge list of things I wanted to include. As I started building the site I noticed that some things needed to be expanded and some needed to be laid to rest. I loaded handouts that students have a tendency to lose; now they can go to the website and make another copy. Hopefully this will save me time and argument and at the same time make students more responsible. Also, bonus! parents will now be able to see things and ask questions of their students with some authority behind them. I visited other school and teacher websites, I dreamed about this website, and I brainstormed with other teachers and my boyfriend.

My criterion for this genre is that it be user friendly. I made a page for each class that I teach. I renamed the download tabs to say what they are, so students are not confused. I also wanted it to be literature oriented, on each page I show their textbook and the novels for the entire year. This should keep them thinking ahead.

I hope in the future, with Moodle, I will be able to have students turn in papers online. This is important because of the technological time we are in, also colleges are moving to this format. I even can see a time where we can have online discussions over literature and over writing assignments.

I am not sure if I feel comfortable having students create websites, but I can teach them about internet safety by explaining about my Moodle and school regulations.

The current stage of the website is an ongoing project. I will upload with each new unit and remove after each marking period. I would like to do more research on this genre and other school websites. I want this site to be truly helpful to the students.

I enjoyed this genre because I finally felt that I was doing something modern. I am teaching *Julius Caesar* and *The Great Gatsby* right now, they are not exactly modern. Being modern was a new feeling as a literature teacher. The only thing I am concerned about is keeping kids safe online. I think with the Moodle I will have more safety. But the way I left the site, no student work or pictures will be seen. It is just a way for them to keep up with their work.