Text! Tweet! Write!
ENGL 364 Jane Austen: Then & Now

Overview:
You and your partner will take on the personas of two characters in Sense and Sensibility who experience communication issues or antagonisms of some sort and communicate with each other via the assigned method as your chosen character. (Examples include Elinor and Marianne or Lucy Steele and Elinor).

Exercise Objectives:

1. To explore how different forms of written communication produce different forms of meaning.
2. To understand characterization and theme, then create your own interpretation from that understanding.
3. To analyze and reflect upon perspective, purpose, medium, and audience.
4. To consider what it takes to be an effective and responsible communicator.

Guidelines and Instructions:

1) Per your group’s assigned method, text, tweet (tweeters: choose a hashtag and proceed accordingly. If you want to try taking on a larger group Twitter Chat, go for it! Just be sure each of you picks a distinct character), or hand write letters to each other as your characters for 15 minutes. Letter writers, be sure you give yourselves enough time to actually exchange epistles.

2) Write an individual reflection (at least 5 sentences). Consider the purpose of your communication, the audience, the medium or means by which you communicated, and the themes of the novel you think you brought to bear on this exercise. Some questions to ponder just to get you going include: Who is the intended audience for your given form of communication and is the intended audience always also the actual audience? Explain. Did your method of communication increase or decrease intimacy between the characters? Why or why not? Did it create obstacles or hostilities or build bridges? Why? How? Did the characters reveal more or less of themselves with your format and audience considerations? Explain. What happens to your discourse when you communicate in a method to which you are accustomed or unaccustomed, as the case may be? Do factors such as age, race, class, and gender affect your method of communication? Why or why not? (5 minutes)

3) Be prepared to share your dialogues and your reflection with the entire class!