



When writing the exam:

- \* Avoid making large generalizations and instead move quickly and repeatedly to specific details drawn from Austen's novel. Consistently ground your claims in examples drawn from *Persuasion*. The object here is to support your claims and to convey that you have read the novel with care, and are therefore familiar with its settings, characters, narrative, problems, questions, themes, action, and informing cultural contexts. Be careful not to reproduce something I said in lecture without also indicating exactly *how* that applies to the assigned texts. Demonstrate two things: 1) that you have linked what was said in lecture to the novel's details; and 2) that you are able to wager your *own* readings of the novel, extending what was said in class in in the Study Questions and Course Blog.
- \* Cast your mind back to the sorts of examinations you've already written for this course, three so far. There will be lots of lessons learned there. What strategies led to writing an effective examination answer? What problems do you need to avoid repeating in this examination? For example, do your answers lack specific detail? Have you read the novel not only to determine its basic plot but also with a critical eye, i.e. with an eye to bringing out what makes this novel Romantic and what sorts of themes and problems quicken its large and small details? Do you need to organize your time more effectively when writing the examination? Have you paused and reflected on the precise question that is being asked of you?
- \* Start several of your sentences with the phrase, "For example." That way you turn your exam answer towards those specific details.
- \* Don't forget to answer the question! I.e., carefully consider the particular focus of the midterm examination question and the kind of work that it is asking you to do here. Be careful not to put down on paper everything that you know about the novel. Instead, route what you know through the particular focus of the midterm examination question. Use the exam question to organize your thoughts and focus your response. Answer the question.
- \* Begin by taking a deep breath. Compose yourself. You've attended classes, done the readings, taken good lecture notes, thought rigorously about the novel and considered the how the lectures illuminate *Persuasion* and how *Persuasion* informs the lectures. Beyond doing well in the course, now is a great opportunity more broadly to demonstrate your commitment to your own education and to grappling with the questions and problems that quicken the course.