

DADES: Ongoing Online Discussions

Mr. Lobdell • Sci-Fi/Fantasy Lit

Now that you've read and discussed Philip K. Dick's novel, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, there are 7 online discussions for you to participate in. These are available on the class blog (which is on the class website), or you can get to them instantly by scanning the QR codes below. Log in to join the conversations.

You must **contribute 10 times** to these discussions before the unit test. Your contributions may be in the form of original posts or comments to your colleagues' posts. (All of your posts will be moderated before they appear on the blog, so don't worry if your posts don't appear immediately.)



Human Substitutes? What aspects of humanity have artificial substitutes and why? Are these things good? Or are they troubling?

Power Structures? How are hierarchical systems of power used in this novel? How have we as a society done the same thing?



Celebrity Culture? What is the role of Buster Friendly and his Friendly Friends? Does it matter that Buster is an android? What is Dick suggesting about celebrity culture?

Androids as Freedom Fighters? Can you empathize with the androids' quest for freedom? Are they, in many ways, like many other marginalized groups in our own history (African Americans, Native Americans, undocumented residents, and others) who have been dehumanized and who have had to fight for their freedom?





More or Less Human? Sometimes the androids in this novel seem more human than the humans—especially the protagonist, Deckard. Why might that be the case?

Our Technological Children? Can we separate ourselves from our technological creations? If we create them, are we responsible for taking care of them? If we create them, are we responsible for what they do?



Should We Measure Everything? Think about our society's emphasis on measurability and rationality. Has it killed our appreciation for emotional intelligence, creativity, and the arts—some of the things that we say make us human? Or has all that data helped us in some way?

When responding on these class blogs, certain rules apply:

- Please do your best to write in Standard English--no texting abbreviations or sloppy writing.
- Strive for the following: Mutual Respect, Read Attentively, Everyone has the Right to Participate, and No Negativity or Putdowns.
- Remember, though your identities are "hidden" from each other on these blogs, I know who you are, so you don't need to include your name in your response.

Your 10 posts are due by _____. Feel free to post more than 10 times, and come back to the site to see—and comment on—what others have said about your posts.