

Andrew Marvell Twitter War

Activity Summary

For homework, students read Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress" (1681) and several modern-day replies, including A.D. Hope's "His Coy Mistress to Mr. Marvell" (1978).

In class, I divide students into groups of 2-3 and assign each group small section of one of the poems. Their first task is to "translate" their assigned lines into modern-day English (even Hope's reply is in Elizabethan verse). We go around the room and share our "translation" of each section, in order, to ensure comprehension of the conversation between the two poems' speakers.

Next, groups are tasked with converting their lines into a Tweet – no more than 180 characters, including hashtags and emojis.

Once groups have finished this task, we write out their Tweets on the board, alternating Marvell's Tweets with Hope's replies to map out their poetic conversation as a Twitter war. As a class, we also come up with Twitter handles for each speaker, imagine a modern-day scenario that might prompt such a Twitter battle, and add emojis and hashtags when inspiration strikes.

