

Module V: 20th Century Literature

Poetry Explication Researched Presentation and Essay-Group Assignment

The Presentation:

For this collaborative project, a team of three to four students will assemble a 5-7 minute oral presentation (complete with Prezi or PowerPoint) explicating a poem from the suggested reading list of 20th Century poetry. The presentation should include relevant information from the author's background, historical and cultural context, critical reception, and the overall significance of the work. Team members may use maps, film clips, songs, demonstrations, reenactments, etc. to enhance their presentations and their grades. Students can also address key literary elements used, e.g. rhyme scheme, form, metaphor, alliteration, etc. While each team member will research different information, the material should be presented cohesively showing shared research and seamless integration of each team member's individual contributions. All team members will be included equally.

Students should refer to the Tips for Creating an Effective Prezi or PowerPoint document. Students should also refer to the assignment rubric to ensure all essential elements have been included.

The Collaborative Essay:

Additionally, each team will submit a formal written essay of approximately 800 words (or approximately three pages typed) that mirrors the presentation in content and scope: relevant information from the author's background, historical and cultural context, critical reception, and the overall significance of the work. Students can also address key literary elements used, e.g. rhyme scheme, form, metaphor, alliteration, etc. As with the presentation, this essay should be a cohesive essay that incorporates each team member's individual contributions.

This essay should follow the conventions of standard American English and be free of all grammatical and mechanical errors. The essay should be formatted according to MLA format for essays and use MLA style documentation. The essay should include a Works Cited page that cites the poem plus three scholarly research sources, for a total of four sources. Remember that every work listed on the Works Cited page must be also cited parenthetically within the essay, so students should have at least four in-text citations minimum. Students can use NCLive literary databases to find reputable scholarly articles. Students should also refer to the assignment rubric to ensure all essential elements have been included.

Suggested Collaborator Roles:

Each team member will select one of four specific areas of responsibility toward the finished written work and oral presentation:

1. **About the Author:** an analysis of the life and other works of the author and how that information impacted the author's selected work and writing choices.
2. **Cultural Connection:** an analysis of setting (historical, cultural, social, political) and its impact on the author's selected work and writing choices.
3. **Critical Reception:** a synthesis of how critics received the work in the time period in which it was written/published.
4. **Significance of the Work:** an analysis of how the work contributed to or impacted the society of readers of the work (cultural and/or historical significance of the work).

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Grading Rubric: Essay

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Adherence to Assignment Guidelines	10	
Introduction & Thesis Statement	10	
Paragraph: Author's Background	10	
Paragraph: Historical/Cultural Context	10	
Paragraph: Critical Reception	10	
Paragraph: Overarching Significance	10	
Conclusion	5	
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, & Mechanics	10	
Cohesiveness/Unity of the Essay	10	
Effective Use of Source Material	15	

Grading Rubric: Presentation

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Adherence to Time Constraints	10	
Effective Use of Visual Aids	20	
Organization of Ideas in Presentation	15	
Articulation, Enunciation, and Audibility	20	
Appropriate Word Choice and Use of Standard American English	15	
Content of Information	20	

Tips for Creating a PowerPoint or Prezi

Tip	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimize the number of slides.	To maintain a clear message and to keep your audience attentive and interested, keep the number of slides in your presentation to a minimum.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Choose a font style that your audience can read from a distance.	Choosing the right font style, such as Helvetica or Arial, helps to get your message across. Avoid narrow fonts, such as Arial Narrow, and avoid fonts that include fancy edges, such as Times New Roman.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Choose a font size that your audience can read from a distance.	Choosing the right font size helps to get your message across.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep your text simple by using bullet points or short sentences.	Use bullets or short sentences, and try to keep each to one line. You want your audience to listen to you present your information, rather than read the screen.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use art to help convey your message.	Use graphics to help tell your story. Don't overwhelm your audience by adding too many graphics to a slide, however.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Make labels for charts and graphs understandable.	Use only enough text to make label elements in a chart or graph comprehensible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Make slide backgrounds subtle and keep them consistent.	Choose an appealing, consistent template or theme that is not too eye-catching. You don't want the background or design to detract from your message.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use high contrast between background color and text color.	Themes automatically set the contrast between a light background with dark colored text or dark background with light colored text. Select the best for the room in which you are delivering your presentation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Check spelling and grammar.	To earn and maintain the respect of your audience, always check the spelling and grammar in your presentation.