20th- century Authors project

With your group, prepare a presentation about the 20th-century American author(s) you have been assigned. Your presentation should include the following components:

* ***Background information about the author****.* You might explain the time period in which the author(s) lived, the genres the author(s) produced, and some of the best-known accomplishments of the author(s). (½ min)
* ***Summary of your assigned piece of writing.*** Give the class an overview of the assigned story, essay, speech, or poetry. As part of your summary, choose a short selection writing to share with class members so they have a taste of the writing style. (1½ min)
* ***Analysis of the literary elements of the author’s writing***. Explain the significance of a few of the writing choices. What symbols are used? What do they mean? What word choices are important? How does setting influence the meaning? Do you see examples of figurative language? What impact do they have? (2 min)
* ***Analysis of the author’s place in history***. Explain how the author’s writing connects to relevant events and movements in American history. How does this piece reflect or respond to concerns of the time period? How does the style represent the literary trends of its time? What connections do you see? (2 min)

Your goal is to help our class understand the author’s literary work and contribution to American literature.

Your presentation should be accompanied by **a handout** for each member of the class. You do not need to adhere to a specific template; however, your handout should include key points about each of the preceding areas of focus. In particular, it should include a **copy of the literature selection** which you share with the class. As you prepare the handout, remember: less is often more. Do not overwhelm your readers with a transcript of every word you plan to say.

Your handout should include the title of your presentation, your author’s name, and your names. It does not need to adhere to MLA paper format. However, if you do quote someone else or reference ideas which you should credit to someone else, then include a Works Cited portion somewhere on the handout.

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| Category | Superior: 20-19 | Good: 18-16 | Developing: 15-14 | Not Yet: 13-10 |
| Summary | Your selection of background information about your author and of themes from your author’s writing demonstrates your solid understanding of the author’s place in American literature. You provide a concise yet comprehensive summary for the class. | You select key background information about your author and key themes from your author’s writing and you clearly summarize them for the class. | You present information about your author’s background and writing. | You do not cover all the points of information about your author as required by the assignment. |
| Analysis | You demonstrate unique insight and strong understanding as you use ample evidence to convincingly interpret how specific purposes, influences, and historical events are reflected in your author’s writing. | You offer an interpretation of how specific purposes, influences, or historical events affected your author’s writing, and you provide evidence to support this interpretation. | You attempt to show a connection between your author’s writing and specific purposes, influences, or historical events, but you do not provide evidence for your interpretation. | Your presentation consists mostly or entirely of summary without progressing to analysis.  |
| Presentation | You present information about your author in a clear, organized, engaging, and polished manner so that listeners can understand your key points and enjoy your presentation. | You present information about your author in a clear and organized manner so that listeners can understand your key points. | You present information about your author, but you are sometimes difficult to understand or follow. | Your presentation is unaccountably short, unfocused, or otherwise does not meet the requirements of the assignment. |
| Handout | You provide every class member with a polished, organized, and visually appealing handout presenting key points about your author and a copy of a short selection from the author’s writings. | You provide every class member with a handout presenting key points about your author and a copy of a short selection from the author’s writings. | You provide every class member with a handout, but it is missing some of the required information, is sloppy, or does not clearly distinguish key points. | You do not provide a handout or do not have sufficient copies for all class members. |