20th-century Authors Presentation

With your group, prepare a presentation about your 20th-century American authors and the time period they represent.

Your presentation should include the following components:

* ***Briefly summarize each author’s writing****.* You might explain the genres the authors produced, the writing style or themes they are known for, and some of their best-known accomplishments. As part of your summaries, choose a *short* selection from each author’s writing to share with the class that gives a taste for the authors’ writing. (2 min each)
* ***Make connections to the time period.*** Explain how your authors’ writings connect to relevant events and movements in American history. What is going on in America? How do these authors reflect or respond to concerns of the time period? How do they fit into the literary trends of their time? (2–3 min)
* ***Provide a handout about each author***. Your handout should include key points about your author’s writing and significance in a way that will supplement your presentation to the class. In particular, it should **include the literature selection(s)** you plan to share with the class. As you prepare the handout, remember: less is often more. Do not overwhelm your audience with a transcript of every word you plan to say.

To succeed at this assignment, you should work together with your group members to ***synthesize***information about your authors and time periods. Although you have each learned about different authors, your presentation should not feel like a collection of separate presentations that have no association. You should work together to make connections and give a unified presentation.

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| **Category** | **Superior: 20-19** | **Good: 18-16** | **Developing: 15-14** | **Not Yet: 13-10** |
| **Summary** | Your selection of information about your authors’ writing demonstrates your solid understanding of their place in American literature. You provide concise yet comprehensive summaries for the class. | You select key information about your authors and their writings and you clearly summarize it for the class. | You present information about authors and their writing. | You do not key information about your authors as required by the assignment. |
| **Synthesis** | You demonstrate unique insight and strong understanding as you use ample evidence to convincingly present connections between your authors and their historical era. You show a solid understanding or relevant literary movements and historical events. | You present connections between your authors and their historical era, and your provide evidence to support your interpretations. | You attempt to show connections between your authors’ writings and their historical era, but you provide limited or erroneous information. | Your presentation consists mostly or entirely of summary without progressing to synthesis.  |
| **Presentation**  | You present information about your authors 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 authors in a clear and organized manner so that listeners can understand your key points. | You present information about your authors, 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. |
| **Handouts** | You provide every class member with polished, organized, and visually appealing handouts presenting key points about your authors and short selections from the authors’ writings. | You provide every class member with handouts presenting key points about your authors and short selection from the authors’ writings. | You provide every class member with handouts, but it is missing some of the required information, is sloppy, or does not clearly distinguish key points. | You do not provide handouts or do not have sufficient copies for all class members. |
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