Group Project: Early American Literature

With your group, prepare a presentation about the early American literary piece you have been assigned. Your presentation should include the following components:

* ***Summary of your assigned literary piece.*** (2–3 min)

Give the class an overview of the story or essay. As part of your summary, choose a short passage to share with class members so they have a taste of the writing style.

* ***Review of the time period your literary piece represents.*** (1–2 min)

In your own words, explain the most important characteristics of the literary movement.

* ***Historical analysis of the piece of literature***. (4–5 min)

Explain how the author’s writing connects to and represents characteristics of the relevant movement in American cultural 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? As part of your analysis, choose several short passages that illustrate these connections and share them with the class.

* ***Visual***.

Your presentation should include a visual (such as a poster or slideshow) to help communicate, illustrate, and emphasize important points. You may choose how to use your visual in your presentation. For example, it could be an illustration of scenes from the story, it could be a storyboard or timeline of the plot, or it could be a chart showing how parts of the story connect to characteristics of the literary movement. Whatever you choose, your visual should enhance the presentation.

All group members should be involved in preparing and presenting your project. Your goal is to help our class understand the author’s literary work and how it is a reflection of the literary movement.

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| Category | Superior: 10 | Good: 9-8 | Developing: 7 | Not Yet: 6-5 |
| Summary of Literary Piece | You provide a clear and comprehensive summary of your literary piece for the class. | You clearly summarize your literary piece for the class. | You present a summary of your literary piece that is at times confused or incomplete. | You do not provide adequate summary of your literary piece. |
| Review of Literary Movement | You provide a concise yet comprehensive overview of your literary movement that shows solid understanding of its main features. | You provide key information about the features of your literary movement. | You provide limited information about your literary movement. | You do not provide much if any information about the features of your literary movement. |
| Analysis of Connections between Literary Piece and Movement | You demonstrate strong understanding of how your literary piece represents its historical period as you use ample evidence to convincingly interpret connections. | You offer an interpretation of how your literary piece represents its historical period, and you provide evidence to support this interpretation. | You attempt to show a connection between your literary piece and its historical period, but you do not provide much evidence for your interpretation. | Your presentation consists mostly or entirely of summary without progressing to analysis.  |
| Presentation | You present information in a clear, organized, engaging, and polished manner so that listeners can understand your key points and enjoy your presentation. Your presentation is enhanced by a visual that adds clarity and increases interest in your ideas. | You present information in a clear and organized manner so that listeners can understand your key points. Your presentation is accompanied by a visual that reinforces ideas. | You present information in a way that is sometimes difficult to understand or follow. Your presentation is accompanied by a visual that has limited usefulness in reinforcing your ideas. | Your presentation is unaccountably short, unfocused, or otherwise does not meet the requirements of the assignment. Your presentation does not include a visual. |
| Group Contribution | You contribute productively to your group’s preparation and presentation. You work to ensure and encourage the successful contribution of each member of your group. | You contribute productively to your group’s preparation and presentation. | You make contributions to your group that do not fully meet their expectations. | Your contribution to your group’s success is lacking in significant ways. |