Final Presentation

Choose an American literary text (e.g., a novel, poem, play, biography, short story, song, etc.) that we did not study this year but that you feel is worthy to be in the canon. In other words, pick a text you think people should study because of its value. Look for a text that contains significant and perpetually-relevant themes or ideas. It may help to consider what important lessons Americans could learn from it today.

Use both words and visuals to present your chosen piece of literature to the class.

* Provide background about the text, its author, and its genre. You may choose to share a short portion of the text.
* Identify and describe significant themes or ideas that your chosen text represents. Consider how your text speaks to Americans about moral themes or social issues.
* Make your argument for why this piece belongs in the American literary canon. Explain why students and the public would benefit from reading it. Why does everyone need to read or experience this piece?

The specifics of how you present is up to you, but you should take no more than two minutes. Your audience for this presentation will be your teacher and fellow classmates.

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| Category | Superior: 10 | Good: 9-8 | Developing: 7 | Not Yet: 6-5 |
| Background Information for Literary Text | Your presentation includes carefully-selected information about your chosen text that helps your audience understand it and that demonstrates your solid understanding of its place in American literature. | Your presentation includes key pieces of background information about your chosen text that help your audience understand it. | You presentation includes some brief background information about your chosen text. | Your presentation does not cover much if any background information about your chosen text as required by the assignment. |
| Analysis of Themes | Your presentation uses well-chosen textual evidence to demonstrate unique insight into the themes and significance of a literary work. Your analysis demonstrates an unusual depth of understanding. | Your presentation interprets significant themes from your chosen literary work. | Your presentation briefly covers ideas represented by your chosen literary work. | Your presentation consists mostly or entirely of summary without progressing to analysis. |
| Argument for Canon | Your presentation thoroughly develops convincing reasons to support canonization of your chosen text. | Your presentation outlines reasons to support canonization of your chosen text. | Your presentation is tentative is presenting an argument for canonization of your chosen text. | Your presentation lacks much if any support for why your chosen text should be canonized. |
| Use of Visual Content | Your presentation is enhanced by visual elements that add clarity to your message and increase interest in your ideas. | Your presentation is accompanied by visual elements that reinforce your ideas. | Your presentation is accompanied by visual elements that have limited usefulness in reinforcing your ideas. | Your presentation does not include any visual elements. |
| Delivery | Your presentation is delivered powerfully, demonstrating a combination of solid preparation and skill. | Your presentation is delivered smoothly, showing evidence of thought and preparation. | Your presentation shows some evidence of preparation but is delivered weakly. | Your presentation is ill-prepared or unaccountably brief. |