

Presentation Guidelines

Your job in your presentation is to reveal something about the text that the rest of the class did not see. Try to find something hidden beneath the surface of the text. Don't tell the class anything that is obvious, especially plot summary.

You will use a number of methods to find this hidden subtext:

- 1) You will meet with the other member of your group to discuss the text. You must meet at least once in a group. You can meet online in a group chat if everyone is able.
- 2) You will do close readings of certain parts of the text. Re-read a section over and over. Try to "read between the lines." What are the themes, motifs, images, symbols, or codes that this section contains? How does this section fit with the text as a whole? What piece of the puzzle is this section? Keep re-reading the text over and over until something comes into your field of vision.
- 3) You will consult different sources to get a deeper reading of the text. These sources can be critical essays, historical texts, author biographies, philosophical texts, critical theory, film theory, and cultural criticism. You might also try to find an expert in the field. If the text is written about Canada, you might find a Canadian to help you fill in the cultural differences. Librarians in different libraries can help you find information on these texts.

After you find your subtext, you must come up with an interesting and educational way of presenting this material. **DO NOT STAND IN FRONT OF THE CLASS AND READ YOUR FINDINGS.**

Most importantly, follow Chaucer's advice: entertain and instruct. **SHOW**, don't tell. Come up with creative ways of presenting your material. Feel free to use the class in any way you wish. Make the other students actively participate in your skits, debates, discussions, and activities. Here are some examples:

- Do research on topic. Present this research in a multimedia report: Pictures, Drawings, Slides, Powerpoint, Video, and/or Music.
- Construct a scene from the text or topic to present to the class in the form of a painting, poster, play, or video. Your construction of the scene must lead the class toward a discussion of a particular aspect of the text or topic.
- Make a game/talk show that tests the knowledge of the class while highlighting your particular expertise.
- Find videos, music, and/or photos from/about/pertaining to the text/topic and present these in a creative manner.
- Find other texts (books, films, poems, songs, art, photos) that relate to the text/topic and compare and contrast in a creative manner.
- Act out characters in different situations than presented in the texts. Have props and settings.
- Rap, spoken word poetry reading that directs class toward issues.