

Leading Class Discussion Assignment

Each student will lead a class discussion on one of texts studied in the course. The objective will be to present the class with historical and authorial context for the text studied, a general understanding of its place within American literary history, and questions designed to guide class discussion. Presentations will be approximately 10 minutes in length (not including discussion), and must include:

- A brief hand-out for the class
- Clear connection to other course readings
- Leading questions for the class (to spark discussion)
- 500-750-word response paper arguing for your interpretation of the text

August 28th

Benjamin Franklin, "Way to Wealth"
Red Jacket, "Reply to the Missionary Jacob Cram"

August 30th

Thomas Jefferson, "Declaration of Independence," "Notes on Virginia"

August 30th

David Walker, "Appeal"

September 6th

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance"
Black Hawk, From *Life of Ma-ka-tai-me-she-ki-a-kiak, or Black Hawk*

September 11th

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Wakefield," "Ethan Brand"

September 13th

Edgar Allen Poe, "William Wilson," "Man of the Crowd"

September 18th

Henry David Thoreau, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For," "Civil Disobedience"

September 20th

Harriet Jacobs, excerpts from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

September 25th

Abraham Lincoln, "Lyceum Address"

September 25th

Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave?"

September 27th

Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno"

October 2nd

Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"
Walt Whitman "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"
Walt Whitman, "The Wound Dresser"

October 4th

Emily Dickinson, 260 [288], 320 [258], 340 [280], 372 [341], 373 [501], 409 [303], 479 [712], 598 [632], 620 [435], 764 [754], 1263 [1129]

October 11th

Mark Twain, "A True Story, Repeated Word for Word as I Heard It," "The Celebrated Jumping Frog"

October 11th

Charles Chesnutt, "Dave's Neckliss"

October 16th

Kate Chopin, "Desiree's Baby"
Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour"

October 16th

Sui Sin Far, "Mrs. Spring Fragrance"

October 18th

Paul Laurence Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask"

October 18th

Susan Glaspell, "Trifles"

October 18th

Stephen Crane, "The Blue Hotel"

October 23rd

Robert Frost, "Mending Wall," "Fire and Ice"

October 23rd

Claude McKay, "If We Must Die," "America"

October 23rd

Nella Larsen, "Sanctuary"

October 25th

Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again," "I, Too"

October 25th

T.S. Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

October 25th

Marianne Moore, "Poetry"

October 30th

John Cheever, "The Swimmer"

October 30th

Ralph Ellison, "Battle Royal"

November 1st

James Baldwin, "Going to Meet the Man"

November 1st

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"

November 1st

Eudora Welty, "Where is the Voice Coming From?"

November 6th

Allen Ginsberg, "Howl," "A Supermarket in California," "America"

November 6th

John Updike, "A & P" (iCollege)

November 6th

Gwendolyn Brooks "We Real Cool," "The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till"

November 8th

Toni Morrison, "Recitatif"

November 8th

Audra Lorde, "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action," "Poetry is Not a Luxury"

November 13th

Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"

November 13th

Jhumpa Lahiri "Sexy"

November 15th

Junot Diaz, "Drown"

November 15th

Sherman Alexei, "At Navajo Monument Tribal School," "Crow Testament"

November 27th

Colson Whitehead, *Underground Railroad*