## Short Presentation Assignment: Leading Discussion

For your assigned day, please come prepared to present to the class on your particular topic. You should speak for 5-10 minutes and have an accompanying powerpoint and short handout that presents the following material:

1. Basic biographical background on author (if there is an author; if not, then enlarge point # 2).
2. Basics about when/where work was written (if any).
3. Importance of work in general culture, and to the topic of love in particular.
4. Give a brief summary of what's important about the work. If it's an article, what is its main argument about love? If it's a novel or short story or poem, how does it present love? what are its main metaphors?
5. Choose a small excerpt – a few lines to a paragraph – that to you seems particularly important to understanding the work.  Explain what seems important about it to you, and how it connects to the argument the book is making.
6. Pose 3-5 questions for us to think about. These should be not factual questions about what the piece under discussion says, but deeper questions that make us think about the larger issues it brings up.
7. Answer questions from your fellow students.

You should meet with me on the class day before the presentation, and submit your rough draft to me 24 hours ahead of time.

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on both the content of your presentation and how well you present it.

In evaluating content, I will be looking at:

• Accuracy and thoroughness of your report
• Depth of your engagement with the chosen focus
• Thoughtfulness of your discussion questions
• Ability to guide discussion

In evaluating presentation, I will be looking at:

• Speaking style/delivery (body language, eye contact, voice loudness)
• Slides/presentation
• Clarity of content and logical presentation
• Responses to others' questions

Additionally, we will videotape (on my smartphone) your performance.  You will be asked to submit a self-evaluation of that video that will become a part of your grade.

Content and Organization:

- Work being analyzed is clearly named
- Enough background is given to orient listeners, but does not go into summary
- Includes all requirements
- Logically organized
- Interprets excerpt in an interesting way
- Conclusion shows "take-away point"
- Presentation fits in the time allotted
- Answers questions fluently                    /8

Audio/Visual:

- Slides are easily readable
- Slides are free of major spelling and/or grammar mistakes
- Visuals chosen (if any) support rather than distract from the argument.

Presentation:

- Speaker uses clear, appropriate language
- Speaker uses appropriate rate and volume
- Speaker uses few "uhhs" and "ums"
- Speaker uses voice and body language expressively
- Speaker makes sufficient eye contact.

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Self-evaluation            (0, 1, or 2 points: for full credit, fill this out thoughtfully):

When I watched myself on tape, I found that:

- My body language was effective when I:


- My body language was not effective when I:
- My voice was loud enough/too loud/too quiet
- I spoke…. (how? Quickly? Emphatically? In a monotone?)


- When answering questions, I….. (spoke like I did during the presentation? Got more nervous? Got less nervous? Showed more enthusiasm?)


- What could I improve on in the next presentation? How?