

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 15 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)
- 1.5-2 page “position paper” arguing for your interpretation of the text

September 4th

Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”

September 9th

Benjamin Franklin, “The Way to Wealth,” *Autobiography*

September 11th

Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance”

September 16th

Henry David Thoreau, “Economy,” “Where I Lived”

September 18th

Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown”

September 23rd

Edgar Allan Poe, “Fall of the House of Usher”

September 25th

Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

September 30th

Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself,” “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”

October 2nd

Emily Dickinson, selection

October 7th

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno*

October 14th

Mark Twain, “The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg”

October 16th

Kate Chopin, “Story of an Hour”

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”

October 21st

Stephen Crane, “The Blue Hotel”

Charles Chesnutt, “Dave’s Neckliss”

October 23rd

Paul Laurence Dunbar, “We Wear the Mask”

Claude McKay, “If We Must Die”

Langston Hughes, “The Weary Blues” “Negro Speaks of Rivers”

October 28th

Robert Frost, “Directive,” “Mending Wall”

Sherwood Anderson, “Hands”

October 30th

Wallace Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar,"
"Sunday Morning"

November 4th

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

November 6th

F. Scott Fitzgerald, "Absolution," "Winter
Dreams"

November 11th

William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"

Flannery O'Connor, "Good Country
People"

November 13th

Ernest Hemingway, "A Clean Well-
Lighted Place"

John Cheever, "The Swimmer"

November 18th

Raymond Carver, "A Small Good Thing,"
"Cathedral"

November 20th

Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"

December 2nd

Junot Diaz, "Drown"

Jhumpa Lahiri, "Sexy"

December 4th

David Foster Wallace, "A Radically
Condensed History of Postindustrial
Life," *Infinite Jest* (selections)