

English IV AP – Literature and Composition

Final Project

Overview: To reiterate *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Foster states, "There's only one story...I suppose what the one story is about is ourselves, about what it means to be human...You see being human takes in just about everything, since we want to know about space and time and this world and the next...so what our poets and storytellers do for us is explain us-and-the-world, and us-in-the-world...We – as readers or writers, tellers or listeners – understand each other, we share knowledge of the structures of our myths, we comprehend the logic of symbols, largely because we have access to the same swirl of story. We have only to reach out into the air and pluck a piece of it."

It is important that through all of the papers you have written, all of the discussions we have had, and all of the analyses that we have undertaken, that we do not lose sight of the most important reason for all our reading and study – to develop our understanding of the human experience. To this end, the following project has been created.

Description: Based on the foundation established by your research paper, you will clearly and creatively present in 10 minutes what it means to be human for you.

Your answer can take almost *any medium*, such as a painting, a sculpture, or even an original song. The hope would be that each student's presentation is unique and insightful. With this in mind, it is not effective to merely lecture or use a bland form of media (PowerPoint, Prezi) or read an essay to the class. Sometimes it is helpful to think of an interest or hobby you have and use that as a foundation for the medium. If you choose to create any media presentation, your piece must be submitted **three days in advance** in order to be previewed prior to the full class viewing.

Your responses will be generated from the research paper. The presentation must be personal in nature. As the paper required you to allude to **three (3) literary works**, **your presentation must also include this component**. You may choose to reference the social, political, economic, religious, and intellectual contexts. All students are required to have a conference with their teacher on the assigned dates. All projects will be shared with the class in May. Remember the presentation should be 10 minutes in length, so the content and delivery must be thoughtful and creative.

Conference: Prior to your presentation, you will meet with your teacher regarding your plan for the project. During the conference, in which *you will lead*, you are expected to present a **typed, detailed outline** regarding your presentation, a clearly articulated **medium choice**, and any potential **challenges or questions**. You must be able to discuss at length what you will be doing for your project. You need to come to the conference with evident preparation and the appropriate materials; for example, a preliminary sketch, a script, a storyboard or film clip, and so forth. If you are unprepared for this conference, you will receive a zero and the conference will not be rescheduled. This is a pass / fail grade, so please be prepared. Conferences will take place in April according to the syllabus.

Expectation: Take the reflective nature of this project seriously. Think of it as a culmination of your high school education and a chance to express yourself entirely, avoid broad generalizations, and **genuinely** respond to the task. *After this presentation we should all know you a little better.*

This project is 20% of your course grade, in lieu of your final exam.

"What we accomplish is determined by who we are."