

Designing Collaborative Final Projects to Assess and Document Student Learning

Assessment Institute 2020

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Introduction to Poetry (ENG L205) Final Project, 2010

December 6 & 8

Contemporary Poetry activity

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry*, declares that its purpose is to "discover the best poetry and place it before the largest possible audience." Assuming that the poems in *Poetry* are examples of contemporary writing considered to be excellent, what can we determine about poetry so far in the 21st century (at least in this medium)?

With a partner, look through a couple of recent issues of the magazine and make some general observations about content and form. (Poems appear in the first half of the magazine, with commentary in the second half.) Look at attributes such as:

form (open, closed, use of rhyme and rhythm, placement on the page, line length, syntax)

subject matter

language (including specialized words, foreign words, and allusions)

treatment of race, gender, and class issues

accessibility of the poems—who is the intended audience, and how do you know?

With your partner, select one poem to talk about with the class on Wednesday. Put your names on a sticky note to mark the page, and I will scan the poem and send the scan to both of you. Write your forum response for Wednesday about this poem and be prepared to talk (informally) about the attributes above.

Introduction to Poetry (ENG L205) Final Project, 2016

Contemporary Poetry Group Project

Assignment: In-class group presentation on a contemporary poet and one or two (if short) representative poems

Due: In class on Nov. 30, Dec 5, and Dec 7

Points: 100 points

- 50 points assigned by team members (on teamwork)
- 50 points on presentation and discussion of poems

For this assignment, you are to work in small groups to find and introduce to your classmates a contemporary poet and one or two of his/her representative poems. In addition to expanding our knowledge of contemporary poets, this assignment will give you an opportunity to cultivate your teamwork skills. Since communication, collaboration, and cooperation are key to your team's successful completion of this assignment, project, half of your grade will be based on your contributions to the team effort. You will be given time in class to work together, but if you don't complete the project in class, you may need to find time outside of class to work with your team members.

1. With your partners, look through one or more contemporary poetry anthologies. I'll provide some hard copy books in class, but you can also look at online poetry anthologies, such as: www.poets.org, www.poetryfoundation.org, and www.poetryarchive.org. Select a poet whose work interests you.

2. Do some research on your poet to find out some background information. Put the information you find into a PowerPoint, citing your sources using MLA format. Be sure to include information about the poet, his/her characteristic style, subjects, and approach, and a selected bibliography of his/her work. Consider both content and form in the poet's work. Look at attributes such as: form (open, closed, use of rhyme and rhythm, placement on the page, line length, syntax), subject matter, relationship between speaker and poet (persona? confessional poetry?) language (including specialized words, foreign words, and allusions), treatment of race, gender, and class issues, and accessibility of the poems.

3. Select one or two representative poem(s) to share with the class in a handout. Lead the class in a discussion. The poem(s) you select will be included in the final exam, so be sure to help your classmates understand and explicate them.

Grading Rubric

Criterion	Possible Points	Points	Comments
Group provided interesting background information on the poet	10		
Presentation contained a brief description of the poet's characteristic style, subjects, and approach.	10		
Presentation was conveyed in a clear, logical, interesting manner.	5		
Sources were cited properly according to MLA format.	5		
Group led an interesting and helpful discussion of the poem(s).	20		

Introduction to Poetry (ENG L205) Final Project, 2019

Due Dates: Submit your PowerPoint to Canvas and be ready to present on 5 Dec

Purpose: This semester you have learned all sorts of interpretive terms and concepts that can be applied to any work of literature that you may read in the future. This assignment will give you an opportunity to apply what you have learned about interpreting poetry to a contemporary poet. The skills you will be demonstrating in this project are essential not only for college success but for life. As you research and synthesize information on your poet's background and style, you will be learning research skills that can be applied to other classes and to other areas of your life. Working with your team will help you cultivate your communication and collaboration skills, which are key qualities that employers expect from new hires. Also, this assignment gives you an opportunity to explore your creative side to create and lead an imaginative and engaging presentation that informs and inspires your classmates about your chosen poet and poems.

Task: To complete this assignment, you should:

1. **TEAM AGREEMENTS.** Complete with your team the Group Work Planning Sheet & Contract.
2. **FIND A POET.** With your partners, look through one or more contemporary poetry anthologies and websites, such as www.poets.org, www.poetryfoundation.org, and www.poetryarchive.org. Identify a contemporary (living) poet whose work interests you.
3. **CONDUCT RESEARCH** on your poet, synthesizing findings about the poet's biography and about characteristic style, subjects, and approach. Read 5-6 poems by that poet so that you can articulate patterns in the poet's favorite subject matters, styles, and approaches. Are the poems open form or closed form? What poetic devices does the poet use? To what effect? Read at least 2 secondary sources about your poet and/or poem(s).
4. **DESIGN A PRESENTATION.** Put the information you find into a clear, logical, and interesting PowerPoint presentation that contains the main points you wish to make about your poet and his/her biography and characteristic style. Be sure to cite your sources properly according to MLA format. Include information about the poet, his/her characteristic style, subjects, and approach, and a selected bibliography of his/her work. Consider both content and form in the poet's work. Look at attributes such as: form (open, closed, use of rhyme and rhythm, placement on the page, line length, syntax), subject matter, relationship between speaker and poet (persona? confessional poetry?) language (including specialized words, foreign words, and allusions), treatment of race, gender, and class issues, and accessibility of the poems.
5. **COMPILE A HANDOUT.** Select two or three representative poems to share with the class. Put them together on a handout to be distributed on the day of your report. Prepare to lead the class in explicating the selected poems.
6. **LEAD DISCUSSION.** On the day of your presentation, lead an interesting, informative, and energetic presentation of your poet and poems. The poem(s) you select will be included in the final exam, so be sure to help your classmates understand them through explication.

Points: 100 points

- 50 points assigned by team members (on teamwork) - Since communication, collaboration, and cooperation are key to your team's successful completion of the assignment, half of your grade will be based on your contributions to the team project.
- 50 points on presentation and discussion of poems (see grading rubric)

Contemporary Poetry Group Project Assignment

Grading Rubric

Criterion	Total Points	Points	Comments
Provided accurate, relevant, and informative background information on the poet.	10		
Contained an insightful brief description of the poet's characteristic style, subjects, and approach.	10		
Contained at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 slide of relevant biographical info • 1 slide insightful description of poet's style, favorite subjects, and approach • 2-3 slides of poem/analysis • 1 slide of Works Cited, including poems and 2+ secondary sources • Some visual appeal 	10		
Handout containing two or three poems to be distributed to class.	5		
Discussion of poem(s) involved the class and properly utilized terms and concepts we've been learning in the class, such as rhyme, rhythm, form, figures of speech, sound, imagery, etc.	10		
Sources were cited properly (on slides and in Works Cited) according to MLA format.	5		

General Comments:

Group Work Planning Sheet & Contract

1. Group members:
2. How does the group envision working together?
 - a. Communicating ideas, sharing information (introverts & extroverts, varying levels of assertiveness)
 - b. Decision making (is it ok to disagree? If so, how will a group decision be arrived at where individual input is considered?)
 - c. Managing conflicts – who and how?
 - d. Delegating tasks – who and how?
3. What role(s) will each member of the group assume? What assignment does each person have, and what is the due date?

Group Member	Assignment for Project	Due Date

4. How will the group handle a situation in which tasks do not seem evenly distributed?
5. How will we give feedback to each other in positive, helpful ways?

Group members' signatures:

L205 Contemporary Poet Group Project Peer Evaluation Form

Your name _____

Please honestly evaluate your team members' contributions to the success of your group project. Try to be completely objective, grading on the attitude and effort you saw, ignoring any personality conflicts you may have felt. Your collaboration score will be determine 50% of each individual's grade, taking into account the extent to which your team member demonstrated willingness to participate, contributed to final presentation, followed through on assigned tasks, and worked and communicated well with others on the team. The other 50% the grade will be assigned to the entire team by your instructor based on the grading rubric distributed with the assignment.

Write the names of your team members, including yourself, in the left column. In the next column itemize the contributions that team member made to the group project. In the next column, you have \$100 to divide among your team members according to the value of the work they contributed toward the project. In the final column, offer explanation and specifics if the money isn't being divided evenly.

Team Member (Include Yourself)	Contributions Toward Project	How much of the \$100 this team member deserves	Rationale (If cash is not divided evenly)