

Mr. Francis
American Literature II

Student-led Literary Discussion

Your challenge: To plan and execute one forty-minute lesson on a significant example of American poetry or oratory that has a solid thematic connection to the work we have done this term. With your group, choose a text to focus on for your lesson. It must be a poem (<50 lines) or speech (<400 words) of literary and historical significance that can reasonably be construed as American.

The plan: Your lesson must include an aim question, which will be written on the board at the beginning of the period. The aim should be referred to as a means of guiding the direction of the discussion, and it should not be a yes-or-no question.

You must outline one or more activities for the class to participate in during the period. These activities will probably include writing or small group work in preparation for a large group discussion.

You must develop several discussion questions to guide the class's conversation. Additionally, you must produce a list of important details (with lines numbers) that you feel are relevant.

The lesson: The lesson must begin no more than two minutes after the late bell rings. You should have someone read the aim question and then begin with your first activity. You will be responsible for keeping students on task and for mediating the discussion.

Assessment: Each group member must play a pedagogical or organizational role in the lesson. The group's final grade will be based in part on how well each team of teachers shares the burden of leading the class, as well as preparedness and organization, delivery and clarity, and engagement of others.

* Everyone must read each text. Please support your classmates by being prepared to discuss.

** Please cite all sources consulted. Any assistance in completing this assignment (including your classmates, the instructor, on-line resources, any printed material, etc.) should be noted in your group's declaration on the lesson plan submitted to me. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.