

Group Project: Leading Class Discussion *or* Annotated Bibliography

Basic Assignment. Each of you will work with a group of two or three others on your choice of group project, either 1) a jointly prepared annotated bibliography on a major work by Alcott or Twain or 2) a jointly facilitated class discussion.

The bibliography option asks the group to find, read, and summarize 8-12 works (articles, chapters, parts of books, etc.) on a topic you choose and develop. You will write brief one-paragraph annotations for each item and assemble those annotations within a bibliography that follows MLA or Chicago style guidelines. I will then copy and distribute that bibliography for the whole class. Everyone in the group should contribute equally to the project.

The class discussion option gives you the chance to work in small groups to develop questions, ideas, presentations, and approaches for directing class discussion. The class will be yours to lead for a day. Organize the class and discussion in whatever way seems most productive and most interesting to you and your group. Whatever you do, your aim should be to help the other students in the class understand and discuss the day's assigned reading. I expect each member of the group to participate in both the planning of the class as well as the in-class discussion.

Reflection Paper. The final part of this group projects assignment involves a reflection paper. One week following your panel or one week after you hand in your bibliography, please turn in a typed (double-spaced) two-page reflection on your project. In this short paper, discuss:

- What were the major aims of your project? What were you trying to do?
- Which part or aspect of your project did you find most successful? Why?
- Which part or aspect of your project did you find least successful? Why?
- What did you learn about your text or topic while preparing the project?
- How did your group work together? Who did what? What was your major contribution to the group effort?

Scheduling and Preferences. In order to coordinate the groups, I need to know which option you most prefer and/or which authors, topics, and texts most interest you. On the attached sheet, please rank your preferences. Keep this sheet for your reference. Complete and hand the attached sheet on or before **January 28**.

Dates. On or before January 28, I will collect panel preference sheets. I will then arrange you into groups. The bibliographies will be due on any day you choose between April 4 and April 22; reflection papers follow a week later. The class discussion panels will be scheduled sometime in February, March, or April during a regular class session; those response papers are due exactly one week after the panel.

Group Project Preferences

Name: _____

1. Which would you prefer? Please circle one.

Bibliography

Leading Class Discussion

No Preference

2. Take another look at the syllabus. Which novels, sketches, critical articles, genres, topics, themes most interest you?

Advice. If you're flexible, let me know, and I might put you in a group needing a third person to round it out. If you're rigid, be rigid and list specific texts and topics. If you have several interests, list as many as you would like.