

Jigsaw



A jigsaw is a teaching and learning exercise.

Each of you will be assigned one of 6 topics to study independently.

Next Wednesday, you'll come together to meet with the people studying the same topic to discuss it and prepare to teach some things about it to others.

On that same day, you'll then meet in a group of 6 people, each with one of the six topics, and take turns teaching what you've learned. Each "teacher" in this second group will have 10-15 minutes to present their ideas.

In our case, the goal of the jigsaw is to form a preview of texts and ideas that will be floating around this quarter, and moreover for you to expose yourselves to scholarship and other conversations in the world relevant to our work.

Today:

CHOOSING TOPICS

There can be only 6 people for each topic (though our numbers will, at the end allow 3 groups to have 7; in these cases, 2 people in the affected groups will teach together next Wednesday).

All groups must be filled.

Some of you will have a strong sense, already, of what group you want to be in. If so, go to it. We'll see how the numbers start out. Those of you without a strong sense can then take a few minutes to check out possibilities, in part by asking those who have chosen WHY they chose their topic.

Once everyone is in a topic group, group members will divide up tasks for an initial "pre-search" run to the library. The question of your "presearch" is "How are we all going to find good information and interesting ideas about our topic?"

Presearch tasks:

- 1, Ask a Librarian for help,
- 2, Search Google
- 3, Search JSTOR & online journals
- 4, Search Wikipedia,
- 5, Search the library stacks & Summit
- 6, search in references and other media

Your goal not to divide up the actual research, but to come back to the classroom this morning with suggestions to each other about where to find good stuff and what KINDS of stuff will be useful and interesting.

You are then responsible for doing your own individual research on your topics between now and next Wednesday. Remember, there might even be real people on campus to talk to / email about this stuff.

Bring on Wednesday: materials you've discovered + a one-two page typed summary of important findings

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The TOPICS

1

History & Theory of Group Performance
Art

2

History & Theory of Improv Performance

3

The Oulipo, history and influence

4

Cloud Atlas & postmodern novels

5

Samuel Beckett, prose & drama

6

Harry Mathews & *The Conversions*

With some of these topics more than others, you can begin with program materials (the actual works + reader materials). That's good. But that CANNOT be all that you do.

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