

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations will be scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of Week 10. Faculty will schedule presentations by project group.

Each student will introduce and read an excerpt from their final manuscript.

- Introductions must follow the format provided and may not exceed 3 minutes.
- The reading of your excerpt should take approximately 5 minutes.

Total Presentation time per student: 8 minutes.

Choose your excerpt:

Choose an excerpt that will *allow your audience to quickly pick up* on characters and situations as well as the significance of the excerpt within the context of your stated goals and interests (as you will describe them in your introduction).

Choose an excerpt that contains *vivid descriptions* and *lively action*. Avoid an overabundance of dialogue, if possible.

Where dialogue is used, rehearse ways to present it that will come across to listeners.

Choose an excerpt that has a *clear and satisfying ending*.

Choose an excerpt that is *representative* of your work.

Ask your group members what parts of your piece they'd like to hear.

Prepare Your Introduction

1. Describe your work: Give the **title**, and briefly relate your **historical interests**: events, characters, ideas, and your use of them. As appropriate, describe your **inspirations** for the project.

Do it NOW:

2. **Contextualize** the excerpt: give just enough summary and background information to prepare your audience for the excerpt you plan to read.

the PRESENTATION

1. *introductions*. Steven and Jin will model the good, the bad, and the ugly.

2. Tips & preventative appeals:

- Apology.** Don't apologize for your work.
- Volume.** Be consistent and project your voice. Don't let every other sentence trail into whispers. Everyone has a stage voice, a voice that projects without sounding like a shout and can carry a variety of emotions and intonations.
- Enunciation.** Don't mumble. Enjoy the words coming out of your mouth. Love them. Use your whole mouth when you speak: tongue, palette, teeth, lips. Don't rush through each word, but relish the sounds like some crazy beat poet, but without the crazy, beat, poet parts; no bongos.
- Pace.** The key to pacing is overcoming your nervousness and breathing steadily. Your breath is part of the performance. You have to be able to breathe in the course of reading. It's not like swimming: you don't just come up for air then spit out a bunch of words like bubbles, trying not to drown. As you rehearse your excerpt, find the natural breaths, places where you can really just stop reading and take a big relaxing breath. Your audience will appreciate it. All other times, read at a pace that allows you to naturally and smoothly exhale and inhale as you talk; let the pace change for drama's sake, but don't sacrifice enunciation for speed. Again, take your time; enjoy the words. The slower you go, the better the audience will be able to follow your work.
- Dialogue.** Avoid excerpts with very much dialogue. When you do have dialogue consider some strategies for communicating it clearly to the listener: add attributive tags for clarity; practice putting significant pauses between two different speakers' lines; consider enlisting the help of performers if you have long swaths of unbroken dialogue (like a play); dramatic voices will help in some cases, but tend to be a bit distracting and sometimes silly; slight adjustments in your voice, like pace, volume, breathiness, can distinguish one speaker from another.