

## PowerPoint Assignment

*You will be assigned an author from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century to research. Create a brief biography of the author and bibliography of his/her primary works, providing relevant information about the publication history of most important works (i.e. date/place of first publication, and any special acclaim or controversy). Also, find 4-6 scholarly articles, books, or reference works that discuss your author (preferably articles or books). Introduce us to your author and place him or her in context within the literature of the day. In terms of "literature," tell us what is important to know about your author. Finally, provide a bibliography using MLA formatting. Your individual presentations should take 5-8 minutes. They should follow the order below.*

1. Title slide with picture or illustration – include the *title of your presentation*, the author under consideration, and your name (1 slide)
2. Biographical material – presented as bullets (Use bullets to launch the sorts of things you want to say about your author's life. Bullets will force you to speak off-the-cuff. Do not just read bullets. (1-3 slides)
3. Bibliography of your author's primary works – a chronological list of the works (with dates of first publication). Do not arrange this list alphabetically. You may make reference to which works were most popular or those that were in some way more significant or interesting than others. (1-2 slides)
4. Any specific about the publication history of your author's texts. (1-2 slides)
5. Place of your author within literary history
6. In a short blurb – just a few sentences or points – explain why the writings of your author should (or should not) be considered to have literary merit. (1 slide)
7. Bibliography – works you consulted. Please follow MLA style. (1-2 slides)

While the number of slides listed above are only approximations, figure on producing anywhere from 8-12 slides. I don't think you can do a good job with less. While a picture or illustration is only required for the title slide, you may want to include other pictures or illustrations throughout.

I will be considering the following in determining your grade:

*The design elements.* Are the backgrounds appropriate to your subject? Can I read the text on the slides easily against the backgrounds? Is the text on the screen pleasingly arranged?

*Your speaking style.* Are you just reading or are you really presenting your material. Are you making eye contact? Are you hiding behind the podium? Are you mumbling or speaking loudly enough and clearly? Grammar and mechanics: Is this presentation free of grammatical and typographical errors?

*MLA style.* Do you follow it when it is called for?

*Content and research.* Just how much serious attention did you give this project?

Presentations begin November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**THE AUTHORS**

William Godwin

Mary Wollstoncraft

B. F. Bache

Abbe Raynal

Joel Barlow

Philip Freneau

Arthur Murphy

John Q. Adams

Ben Franklin (minus the Autobiography)

Olaudah Equiano

Hugh Henry Brackenridge

Phillis Wheatley

Alexander Hamilton

Edmund Burk

Royall Tyler

Jonathan Odell

Susanna Rowson

Timothy Dwight

William Dunlap

John Trumbull

Tecumseh

Charles Brockden Brown

William Ellery Channing

Washington Irving

James Fenimore Cooper

William Cullen Bryant

Sojourner Truth

James Macpherson

Robert Southey

Mason Locke Weems

Samuel Seabury

James Otis