GROUP PRESENTATION ON NOVELS

Purpose: Students are provided an opportunity to work collaboratively on a small project, student have an opportunity to talk to others about their novel, students will receive exposure to a variety of novels, students learn some public speaking skills in an informal, less threatening way since they are presenting as a group and each have a minor role. (approximately four-five minutes per student)

Directions:

1. When students are nearing completion of their novels, explain they will be presenting their books to the class. (15 minute presentations)

2. Distribute the handout (page 2) and explain the various things that should be discussed.

3. Allow time for students to meet in groups with others reading the same novel. As a group they must each choose to be responsible for covering one or more sections of the presentation.

4. Ask each group to turn in one paper that specifies which students have been designated to cover which section of the presentation.

5. Depending on the number of groups, plan 2-3 class periods for presentations. It is better to include no more than three presentations per day as students lose interest and do not make a great audience if there are too many presentations in one day.

6. It is useful to have students evaluate each other. I choose 4-5 students randomly from the audience to evaluate each group. It really helps students pay attention as they have a responsible role as a listener as well as a presenter. In general students are tougher evaluators than the instructor. (I drop the lowest and highest grade and then average the results.)

7. Each individual in the group is evaluated separately. Students are not held responsible when one student does not spend adequate time preparing and/or misses class. (see page 3)

8. Provide students with a list of suggestions on how they might best prepare for their presentation:

   a. Put notes on index cards so you can refer to them. Do not write out whole sentences.
   
   b. Speak loudly and clearly. Look at the audience. Be pleasant and enthusiastic.
   
   c. Practice your part of the presentation, timing yourself. Be sure to have 4-5 min. of information.
   
   d. Be prepared. Mark the date of your presentation in your planner.
   
   e. Bring a copy of the book. Put the title and author on the board.
   
   f. Share a great quote from the book.
**Group Presentation** Your job is to explain your book to the class. Tell the students enough information that they get the general idea of what the book is about. Try to stimulate interest Remember not to divulge how the book ends. You want to encourage students to read this novel.

1. Give a brief summary of the book. Include when and where it takes place, Explain the general conflict in the book. What is the problem being resolved? (Don’t retell the novel, just summarize the main problem.) Include the genre and whether it is non-fiction or fiction.

2. Tell us about the author of your book. Explain his or her background. What other careers has the author had? Where have they lived? What may have led him/her to write about this topic or issue? What other books had he/she written? What type of books does he/she write? What other interesting facts did you learn about them?

3. Explain a powerful or major event in the book. Describe what happens. Tell why this was powerful and/or significant. How did it impact the turn of events in the novel? Why did it grab your attention?

4. Describe one of your favorite characters or one of the most interesting characters in the novel. Elaborate on this character. Describe what they are like. Describe their strengths and weaknesses. Are they realistic? Are they the villain, victim or hero in the book? Explain.

5. What were some of the major life issues the author focused on in your book? (i.e. integrity, pride, greed, selfishness, struggles created by racism, value of trust, friendship, respect for others, man’s inhumanity to man, forgiveness, redemption, etc.) What do you think the author was trying to tell us about these topics? What were the morals or lessons you learned?

6. Explain the value of the book. How would reading this book make you a better person, educate you about realities of the world, provide an opportunity for you to think more deeply about an issue. etc. Why is this worthwhile reading? Who is the best audience for this book? What insights have you gained from your reading?


8. Ask the students if they have any questions about the book.
Name __________________________________ Title _______________________________________

**Evaluation of Individual Presentation**

Student speaks clearly and has good eye contact  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student is well prepared  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student is comprehensive- he/she covers the topic completely  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student uses a positive tone and holds the interest of listeners  
1  2  3  4  5  **Grade**___________

Advice:_____________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Name __________________________________ Title _______________________________________

**Evaluation of Individual Presentation**

Student speaks clearly and has good eye contact  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student is well prepared  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student is comprehensive- he/she covers the topic completely  
1  2  3  4  5  

Student uses a positive tone and holds the interest of listeners  
1  2  3  4  5  **Grade**___________

Advice:_____________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Name ___________________________________________ Title ________________________________________

**Evaluation of Individual Presentation**

Student speaks clearly and has good eye contact  1  2  3  4  5
Student is well prepared  1  2  3  4  5
Student is comprehensive- he/she covers the topic completely  1  2  3  4  5
Student uses a positive tone and holds the interest of listeners  1  2  3  4  5  **Grade**__________

Advice: ______________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________