



Contrasting Visions Team Project



"I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear...."
- Walt Whitman

What does it mean to be American? What has it meant in the past? Was it something about exploring, searching, escape, a quest? About running away or running to? About pursuing dreams? Was there a strain through it all that came to be called an "American Dream"?

Whatever it was, it certainly meant different things to different inhabitants of this land (not to mention that there were inhabitants of this land *before* "we" landed, but we'll address this separately!) So, depending on WHEN people lived as "Americans," it affected how they related to this place, how they viewed their place here, and how they viewed the world. As we emerged through our time here, our stories emerged, as well. Some general literary periods can be drawn as a result and, although they overlap and merge into each other, it's clear that the people of each period were reacting to what came before them, much like a child often develops in the context of, and in reaction to, the family he or she grows up in.

For this exploratory project, your team will be responsible for gaining expertise on one (1) of those periods and presenting your insights to our class in a formal way. Your presentation should take about 20 minutes + 10 minutes for Q&A, and it will cover one of these periods:

- *Puritan*
- *Revolutionary/Reason*
- *Romantic/Transcendental*
- *Realism/Naturalism*
- *Modernism*
- *(w/Harlem Renaissance)*
- *Post-Modernism*

Each team must cover the following influential elements for your literary period:

- Historical/Political Happenings & Philosophical Thought (Thinking of the time)
- Cultural Influences (Art, Music, Architecture)
- Literary Characteristics
- Significant Authors & Literary Works
- Representative Samples ("Loud Lines") from works of this period

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For this project, your team will be evaluated on:

Conceptualization, Coverage & Clarity: _____/80 pts

Your thinking exhibited in the information you share, the detail & support you provide, and the clear manner in which you present it. There's lots of ground to cover here, so your presentation must address all aspects of the culture (thinking, politics, art, music, architecture, etc.). We expect to hear it and see it across all these categories:

_____ Historical/Political Happenings & Philosophical Thought (Thinking of the time)

_____ Cultural Influences (Art, Music, Architecture)

_____ Literary Characteristics

_____ Significant Authors & Literary Works

_____ Representative Samples ("Loud Lines") from works of this period

Creativity: _____/10 pts

If we're to get a sense of this period, you'll need to "Take us there!" Be as creative as you'd like with images, music, acting portrayals, etc.

Presentation: _____/10 pts

Your attention to detail, neatness & overall quality. Make it beautiful.

Total Points: _____/100 pts

Due Date: _____

Visit our class page at TeacherMetzler.com for helpful resources!!

Have fun.