Elements of Book Talks

1. Handout—prepare a Word document or Google document, which can be uploaded on the Students handouts page. I will print a copy so that I can offer feedback and grade the written component of the Book Talk. The E-copy of the book talk needs to be to me 24 hrs. in advance of the day you are presenting so these can be posted on my web page. Please send the E-copy to both [mary.warner@sjsu.edu](mailto:mary.warner@sjsu.edu) and [jean.shiota@sjsu.edu](mailto:jean.shiota@sjsu.edu) Jean Shiota does all the uploading for me; she works in Faculty Development. With the Word document, you will be able to make a copy that can include hyperlinks and be posted in a blog format. Book Talks are scored on the written handout and on the oral presentation and earn 20% of your overall course grade.

1. Give author information/biography

* + As you include this section in your handout, simply provide the author’s web site; For photos or images, include the source where you’ve located these images (unless that is the author’s web page) immediately below the image
  + Include one or two points of information about the author that are relevant to the book you’ve read
  + When you talk about an author (or someone you don’t know personally), you use the author’s last name
  + If the author information is clear on the handout, you can make this section brief during your oral presentation to allow more time to read excerpts from the book

2. Write a summary of the book that is no more than 150 words, highlighting enough of the plot to convey the high points of the book without giving away the story. Focus on what you want readers to know, why you want them to read the book. You have read the book; you create this summary; do not take it from some other source. You might consider doing a “tweet” like summary – knowing that tweets are 280 characters max.

3. Select three quotes that are representative of the book; comment on or explain the significance of the three quotes. \*\*You do not have to put the entire quote on the handout – you can use the first few words, put in an ellipsis, and the final few words of the quote\*\* Give the number of the page where the quote is located. The essential aspect, though, is your commentary/analysis/explanation of the significances of the quote.

4. For those planning on teaching: How might you use this book in a classroom? Include some ideas for presenting the book. For what age level is the book most appropriate? Why should teens read this book? Which category of books (from Chapters 4-8 in *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*) might this book fit?

5. For those not planning on teaching

Include bibliographic resources on the writer’s style, craft, endurability, or related topics to the author and/or the author’s writings. Which category of books (from Chapters 4-8 in *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*) might this book fit?

6. Everyone includes -- an analysis of the Text Complexity of your book. Please follow the suggestions/information given in the handouts “Appendix A – Text Complexity” and “Analyzing Text Complexity” located on the 112B Handouts page of Professor Warner’s website. You will be given helps to determine the quantitative level; note that this “score” represents a different aspect than qualitative levels.

1. Present the Novel

* Your entire oral presentation should not exceed 10 minutes so choose wisely what you want to convey about the book, highlighting what will “sell” it to your peers;
* If you want to share anything about the author that is not evident by reading your handout, you can allow about 1 minute for this
* If you want to highlight anything from the 150-200-word summary, you can do this. “Talk” this section, considering how you can best “sell” the book to your peers or to others who haven’t read the book
* A good point to consider when you are giving oral presentations, it’s better not to “read at” your audience; so be conversational as you present
* Read a favorite excerpt or key passage: you might consider the three quotes that you chose to represent the book and read these

(Suggestions: Practice reading the part in advance, so you can read well and clearly convey the meaning of the passage(s); Select the part(s) that will best “sell” the book; Provide a brief context for what you’re reading

* Why should this book be read?