1B Book Club **Class Presentation: Details**

**What to cover**: You are presenting your book to the class, with exposition, analysis, and evaluation all part of the task. I won’t absolutely require that you use visual aids, but I strongly recommend that you have something beyond just your voices. You can use the smart room technology as I do. (More on this below.) This doesn’t need to be really elaborate, but making a good presentation will require at least a little research and preparation, aside from just reading the book. This is one reason I have you working in teams.

* **Plot**: This should be BRIEF. Tell us what the book is about, major plot points, maybe the parts you liked the best. Discuss how the choices of which episodes to “explode” (tell in detail) might have been intended to shape the audience’s response to the story.
* **Ethos, Personal Voice**: Several of your books are written as personal memoirs told in the first person (“I” and “me” rather than “he” and “him”), including *The Translator, Revolution 2.0, Banker to the Poor, Working in the Shadows, Mexican Enough, and Gang Leader for a Day*. The others are more like extended research papers using more formal sources of information to make their points. In all cases, though, the writer’s ethos is a significant part of the book’s rhetorical strategy, as all of the writers must establish their credibility to make you accept their claims and care about the issues they are addressing.

So in your presentation, tell us what that personal voice sounded like and how well the writer established his or her ethos. How does the narrator/writer come across as a person? What is the prevailing tone, if there is one? You might select a short passage to read that has a characteristic tone. How would it affect the book if it were switched to a third-person voice or if no personal anecdotes were used?

* **Persuasiveness:** Remember, these are all book-length arguments, in a sense, even the ones that seem focused on telling a story. So consider, along with the ethos, how well the logos appeals add up: is the data and the reasoning from the data convincing? In terms of pathos, does the book make the reader care about the issue? What values are invoked? Book club members might disagree in their opinions, which is perfectly fine, but all should be able to support their judgments.
* **Critical Reception**: This is about what the professional book critics said about the book. Although some of these books got more attention than others, you will be able to find at least some reviews on each of them. You might also find published interviews with the writer and maybe video clips of the author being interviewed on a news website or on You Tube. You can also include the sort of amateur reviews you can find on Amazon or Barnes & Noble websites, though these are usually less reliable and less sophisticated.
* **Cultural Impact:** Has your book had an impact on the public discourse, maybe even on public policy (as *Fast Food Nation* and *Banker to the Poor* were designed to do?

How can you gauge your book’s impact? Your research into the critical reception will help. You can also simply do a Google search with your book’s title or author’s name and “impact” or “influence” or “controversy” as a search term. You can see if the author was interviewed in high profile places (e.g. Charlie Rose, Sixty Minutes, Stephen Colbert), whether their books are being read and discussed on campuses (Google the book title and “campus” or “syllabus”) or as an all-state-reads-one-book selection, and whether a foundation has been set up as a result of the book (e.g. fugeesfamily.com for *Outcasts United*). Often a book will have a website of its own, and it will archive reviews, interviews, the writer’s speaking tour, and any awards it might have garnered: all relevant information for this question.

* **Follow-up:** Some of these books create a strong attachment in the audience for the writer and/or for the people they write about, so it would be nice if you could tell us what happened to them after the book ended. Some of these are too new for this, but others have been followed up by more books and in some cases political action (again, I’m thinking of Eric Schlosser, testifying before Congress about exploitation of farm workers.)

**Written Portion of the Presentation (Due before the presentation):**

* **An outline:** This means a brief overview of what you will cover in your talk, with some of the best nuggets of information. For example, in the Critical Reception section, you should include some significant quotes from some of the most important reviews, cited. The other sections should have a short paragraph each with the most important information about each. If one of the categories just doesn’t work for your book, just say so briefly.
* **Format:** This must be TYPED, and it should have every group member’s name on it.
* **Grading:** The written portion will be graded collectively, though I will make some attempt to buffer the hard-working, consistent students from the weaker performance of the less reliable members, if obvious discrepancies exist. It is worth 20 points (for each of you). **Due 4/16**
* Also: There will also be a short in-class writing assignment due on presentation days, so please plan to be there on day two, even if you are not presenting.

**Judging the presentation:**

**Criteria for the Oral Presentations**: (In approximate order of importance):

* **Thoroughness** of research (esp. with critical reception & cultural impact) and in covering the topics
* **Clarity** in discussing the author’s personal voice/ethos & and the book’s persuasiveness
* **Balance between** **conciseness and thoroughness** in presenting your information, Balance of work among group members.

**Visual Aids**: Spiffy graphics and audio/visual support are not required but will be appreciated, as long as they don’t take up too much time fiddling with the technology. If you want to show us a *short* video (say, something that gives us a sense of the writer’s personality), that’s fine. You might also want to call up the book’s website if it has useful materials, such as a map of Darfur. In some cases they can help in the “thoroughness” category. You might also want to make a handout, maybe with the chart defining the 3 levels of Richistan, with their annual expenses, or you could put that on a laptop and project it as I do.

On the other hand, this isn’t a speech class, so don’t stress too much about making a detailed power point presentation or shooting your own You Tube spot. For those of you with public speaking phobias, well, I am going to let you all sit down in a panel format when you present, so that should help.