

## Mini Presentation & Discussion Starter

**Purpose & Assignment:** In one of my favorite books on pedagogy, *Teaching to Transgress: Education and the Practice of Freedom* (1994), the scholar bell hooks writes, “As a classroom community, our capacity to generate excitement is deeply affected by our interest in one another, in hearing one another’s voices, in recognizing one another’s presence...Excitement is generated through collective effort” (8).

In order to promote “collective effort” in our class and to create an environment in which we all learn together, we will each take responsibility for the material at different points throughout the semester.

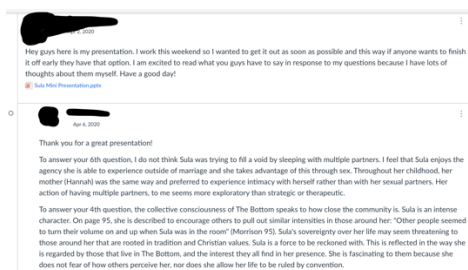
During the first week of class, I will invite you each to sign up for a **virtual presentation** on any day of your choosing, on one of the literary works for that class. Sign up [here](#). The presentation should be around **5-7 minutes** and should consist of four parts:

- 1) Background on the author
- 2) Discussion of the historical/social/political context of the work
- 3) A discussion question (or two) for your classmates to consider
- 4) A Works Cited slide or Word Doc that reflects the sources you consulted for parts 1 & 2

For this assignment, I ask that you **pre-record\* your presentation** and post the file to Canvas **at least 48 hours before your relevant class session**. You will post your presentation under the relevant Canvas discussion board and module for your class day.

*\*Canvas has a “record media” function, but students have found it easiest to do an audio recording with PowerPoint (Slide Show → Record Slide Show). Others have made YouTube videos or used Voice Notes. Please feel free to do whatever works best for you, and let me know if you need assistance. If internet access, home circumstances, or other factors make virtual presentations difficult for you, please let me know, and we can work something out (such as writing a “script” for me to read and record).*

Here is what one of these presentation discussion boards looks like, for reference:



**Rubric:**

This assignment is worth **75 points:**

- Background on the author: 20 points
- Discussion of the historical/social/political context of the work: 25 points:
- A discussion question (or two) for your classmates to consider: 25 points
- A Works Cited slide or Word Doc that reflects the sources you consulted for parts 1 & 2: 5 points