

English 10

Purgatory presentations, distance-style

This assignment asks you to present your assigned Canto from Dante's *Purgatory*, using Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Prezi. If you would like to add audio over your work, using a screencast technology, that would be even better.

This piece will be primarily visual in any case, so the images should be interesting as well as carefully and aesthetically placed. Please give credit, using MLA style, for any images you take. The tone of the presentation should be appropriate to the subject matter.

You should not use any commercial study guide-type materials to support what you do; please cite your worthy sources (see below) in MLA style.

These are good sources I have mentioned before:

- Digital Dante project of Columbia University (<http://digitaldante.columbia.edu/>)

- The Leeds Centre for Dante Studies.

- I recommend you read along in more than one translation of the text, so that if the syntax feels wonky in the one you are reading, you can compare and contrast with another. The most noted *Purgatorios* are Ciardi, Musa, Merwin, and Mandelbaum, along with the Esolen. You may use and cite any of these other translations' notes as well as Esolen's.

Your task is to:

1. Provide a quick summary, anchored in the language of our text, of the Canto.
2. Discuss the main characters and themes of the Canto.
3. Discuss stylistic features you can note in the translation: any similes or metaphors, remarkable images, decisions to include or exclude details or dialogue.
4. Include a slide that's a Works Cited/Consulted page in MLA style. If you are influenced by sources but don't use them closely enough to cite, those should go on a works consulted page. See below for help.
4. Compose three excellent study questions about your Canto, questions that push readers more deeply into the text and ask for inferences—these must be questions for which there is no single, factual answer. I will post these questions on the discussion forum. At the end of the discussion period, your task is to summarize the best answers and make the last post.

Logistics:

- Your presentation is due by noon on the day listed. Include the discussion questions in the presentation, and I will put them on a Jupiter discussion forum. You may upload as a pdf, PowerPoint, Prezi link, or Google Slides show to the Dropbox or to the assignment in Jupiter. If your file is too big for any of these, you may send it to me in an email.

- The discussion, which assumes that the students have carefully read the text itself and watched the presentation, closes at 6pm on the day listed.

- The summary—where the presenter highlights the best answers and adds more ideas based on her expertise and research—of the outcomes of the discussion forum is due by midnight and should be the last item in the discussion forum.

MLA List of Works Consulted/Cited

Works Cited refers to works you cite (use closely enough to have used an in-text citation); Works Consulted is for works you don't use closely enough to cite but that influenced your thinking. You might have two sections on your slide.

- To cite Dante:

Alighieri, Dante. *Purgatory*. Translated and edited by Anthony Esolen. New York, Modern Library, 2004.

- To cite Esolen:

Esolen, Anthony, translator and editor. *Purgatory*. By Dante Alighieri, New York, Modern Library, 2004.

- To cite artwork, use this resource: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_other_common_sources.html

- Columbia and Leeds sources

Use this resource to help you cite electronic sources: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_electronic_sources.html

Don't use commercial summaries, etc., or any other source you would be embarrassed to cite.

Grading:

Accuracy and correct emphases of summary

Correct interpretation of characters' roles and importance

Good understanding and articulation of themes

Excellent level of engagement with the text itself to get at stylistic elements

Aesthetic value of presentation

Creativity of presentation

Sourcework and citations

Quality of discussion forum summary