

English 10

Presentation: *The Odyssey*

Presentations should be just under 10 minutes in length. A good presentation does the following:

- summarizes the action of the book by walking us through the text, showing us relevant passages along the way, giving us line numbers in a way that allows us to follow along
- is given from note cards or sticky notes in your book so that there is no wandering
- isn't read, however, so that we can understand what you want to emphasize from your delivery
- requires no set-up time once class has begun
- is delivered in an animated way as you highlight what's interesting and important
- is delivered with seriousness, self-possession, and poise

A good presentation posits the knowable purpose of the book; what does your book add to the epic as a whole? Answers to this question might be about development of character, advancement of the plot, or the role of style or setting. Further, the good presentation:

- shows good attention to stylistic devices, such as similes, epithets, repetition, and so on, as well as to the effects of these devices
- points out themes we have discussed—*xenia*, *kleos* vs. *nostos*, coming of age, etc.—and how the current text reflects our understanding of the theme

While you need not have a handout to distribute, you should have one page of written-out notes to hand in. You need not use outside sources, but if you do, you should cite those sources on the page you hand in. You should use credible sources such as scholarly essays on the *Odyssey*—you should not use commercial summaries closely enough to cite them.

I will end your presentation if you are still talking after 10 minutes have elapsed.

After the presentation, not counting in the 10 minutes, you should give students a way to reflect on what you have said. Crosswords can be time consuming and obscure; word searches are just immature and beside the point—a quiz, a discussion question, or some group work is appropriate.

Prepare well for your presentation; it will be graded rigorously and counts 100 points on the second quarter.