

Your Final Project for English 232-70

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Your final project sounds a little weighty, but I really don't mean for it to be (I understand that you're busy with your second paper and still reading a bit—not to mention probably having things to do for other classes). So here's what I have in mind: What I mean by "presentation" is really more of leading (or starting the ball rolling) on a very informal class discussion. Our focus throughout the session has been on various aspects of African America literature (e.g., *The Middle Passage*, *Folktales*, *Jeremiads*, etc.), so what I'd like you to do is find some aspect of African American literature that interests you and talk about its origins as revealed in the literature we've read, and then discuss how that aspect has changed over time—from colonial America through the twentieth century). Here are some questions to consider:

- * How has this aspect shown up in various pieces of literature?
- * What have been writers' attitudes toward this aspect of African American literature?
- * What other American or global elements have affected or been affected by the aspect you're tracing?
- * Besides the literature we've studied, how can this aspect of African American literature be seen in other "texts," meaning other literature certainly, but also film, art, music, architecture, pop culture, etc.? (I know you don't have a lot of time to research this project, so feel free to discuss these other texts just from your existing knowledge; if you do have some time and would like to bring in a "handout" or something with some pictures or lyrics or whatever, that would be wonderful—but you can still do quite nicely without bringing in anything extra.)

My hope is that these presentations/discussion will be educational, interesting and fun—certainly nothing to fret over and lose sleep about (that's what your second paper is for).