**Final Project Assignment**

***Jazz*, by Toni Morrison**

**IB English 3**

**\*\*\*This project will count as your final semester exam.**

**See the calendar on our Teams Notebook for exam dates\*\*\***

**This project is due on Thursday, December 17, 2020 by 11:59 PM**

Your final project for the novel *Jazz*, by Toni Morrison, will be a presentation that you create using **Screencast-O-Matic** or another screen recording app. You will create a presentation using a digital platform (PowerPoint, Prezi, Emaze, etc.—**no Google Slides, please**) and record your discussion of the ideas in the presentation.

I will be the only person who will see your presentation. You will structure it similarly to a paper, but you are presenting instead.

You will choose a **literary focus** for your presentation, and you will provide some **historical information** related to your topic

**Prompts: Project Topics (Choose 1)**

1. Compare and contrast the characters of Violet and Dorcas. How are their lives different? How are the characters the same?

2. How is Violet described in the initial portion of the novel? Do you think this is a fair description of Violet's character? Why or why not?

3. How do you describe the development of the relationship between Alice and Violet? Why do you think Violet is so determined to befriend Alice? What benefits do both women derive from the relationship?

4. Describe the significance of Malvonne's presence in Morrison's novel. What does the character of Malvonne add to the plot? What is the story like if Morrison does not include such an antagonist?

5. How is racism explored and conveyed in Morrison's work? Why do you think Morrison writes about it in this way?

6. What impact do you think Alice Manfred has on Dorcas? Do you think Dorcas is the same sort of person if she is not being raised by Alice? Why or why not?

7. What is significant about Dorcas's clothespin dolls? What role do they play throughout Dorcas's life? Why do you think Morrison chooses this particular symbol?

8. Describe the significance of Golden Gray in Violet's life. How does he affect her childhood as well as her marriage with Joe?

9. The mothers of Violet, Joe, and Dorcas die tragically, abandon their children, or kill themselves. Why do you think Morrison includes this similarity between these three characters? What does the loss of one's mother symbolize? Do you think it effectively unites the characters, or does it pull them apart?

10. What is the symbolism of the birds? What events lead up to their release, and how is Violet different afterward?

11. Why does Violet decide she never wants to have children? What impact does this have on her marriage? How does her desire to have children change throughout the book and why?

12. How does Morrison introduce the topic of sexism in her book? How do sexist attitudes impact the wives of both female and male characters?

13. How do the stories of Dorcas's death differ as they are told by Joe, Dorcas, and Felice? What aspects are the same? How do the differences in perception accentuate the difference between these three characters?

14. Describe the relationship between True Belle and Vera Louise Gray. Do the events they share bring them together or pull them apart? How does each of their relationships with Golden Gray compare to the other?

15. Felice has a strong attachment to the ring Dorcas is wearing when she is buried. What does the ring signify, and why is it so important to Felice? What greater concepts are initiated in the story about the ring?

16. Compare and contrast the characters of Joe and Acton. Are they similar in any way, or are they mostly different? What does Dorcas find appealing in each man? How does her relationship with each man change throughout the novel?

17. The title of the work is *Jazz*. Why does Morrison choose such a title for this book? What is the significance of jazz music in this novel?

**Project Requirements**

* Your presentation should be a minimum of 6 minutes and a maximum of 12 minutes​.
* Do not directly read off the slide​. The slide should serve only as visual interest and for your audience to be able to follow along with your main points.
* Everything you are saying should NOT be on the slide​. Use notes to speak about your slide, but your audience will not see those notes.
* Answer the prompt​ in a clearly organized way with evidence and commentary (think MELCon via speech).
* Use a consistent visual theme throughout. Make your slides aesthetically pleasing, easy to read​, and clearly organized.
* Use as few words as possible and include images.

Part 1: Historical Context/Setting

* Use a slide or two to discuss important aspects of the setting.
* Connect the setting to your topic as a transition to your argument.

Part 2: Your Literary Argument/Analysis (the longest part—at least one slide for each bullet point listed below. **Remember that you are not writing out everything you will say.)**

* Present your thesis statement on a single slide.
  + Use the thesis statement format we’ve been using all semester.
* Argument point 1
  + Text evidence and commentary
* Argument point 2
  + Text evidence and commentary
* Argument point 3
  + Text evidence and commentary

Part 3: Conclusion

* Use a slide or two to restate the prompt and your thesis.
* Summarize why you are right.
* State a final thought and leave the audience with a mic drop moment.

**Presentation Tips**

* Include a title slide with the name of the novel, the author, and your name.
* Spread out the information. Take the number of slides you need to adequately give out the information. In other words, don’t crowd the slide. Help your audience follow you in organized, digestible bits, just like when you write a paper.

**How to turn in your presentation:**

* Screencast-O-Matic will allow you to download the video and you can submit the video (or a link) to the Teams assignment or email it to me. You may have to email me a link.
* If you are using a program beside Screencast-O-Matic, then you are going to have to do your own troubleshooting and get it to me some way, somehow.
* If you email me your presentation, you are going to go back into Teams and just press the Turn In/Submit button. If you are sharing a link, you can put that in the assignment that you submit.