

Rubric for Oral Presentation on Song, Poem, etc.

The Basics: the handout includes the title of the presentation; the artist, the title of the work presented, album (i.e., full discography or filmography); lists the name of the presenter, as well as the course title and date

The outline/handout:

- Includes the lyrics of the song/poem or a summary of the scene
- Identifies key themes from the relevant traditions of love
- Identifies key passages from the song
- Illustrates key passages from the modern work with specific passages from the ancient and Renaissance texts we have read and discussed in class. These passages need not be quoted in full, but please cite the poem and line.

The presentation will:

- Have the song/scene cued up on the computer before class so it is ready to play
- Provide background on the artist and especially the song, poem, or scene that will help the class understand the work.
- Play the song/scene
- Discuss any relevant comments made by the artist that help us interpret the work
- Analyze the work, identifying key themes and passages
- Lead students clearly through the different stages/steps of your argument
- Argue how the work fits (or doesn't) specific aspects of relevant traditions of love. It is not always easy to say that a particular work fits only one tradition, but try to make a case for one tradition or another that is persuasive and best fits the evidence as you see it.

The best oral reports help get everyone in the class engaged. Some possible ways for engaging the class are a) by asking them to make connections to texts or themes in the course or b) by posing thought-provoking problems or questions that get at the major themes of the course.

Respondents

After each presentation, I will ask two people to respond to the presentation and offer their own comments. In order to be prepared, you may wish to take notes during each presentation.

- Do you agree with their categorization of the song or do you think that it fits another tradition better? On what evidence would you make your case?
- Are there crucial passages from the work that were left out of the presentation or that you would interpret differently?
- Can you suggest additional themes or passages from the ancient and Renaissance authors that shed light on this song, poem, or story?