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Presentation on a Literary Figure and Their Locale

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French 3306 Introduction to French Literature II (Spring 2011)

Instructor: Dr. Nanette Le Coat

English version

Sample Assignment Presented for an Information Technology Grant
Application

PowerPoint Presentation on a Literary Figure and their Locale

The topic:

Choosing one of the ten topics suggested, explore what bearing a particular **place** or **locus** had on the creative expression of a literary figure. Examples of **places** or **loci** are literary salons, cityscapes, and exotic locales. The ten topics are listed at the end of this assignment.

Description of the assignment:

This presentation is the second of three, phased assignments. In the first assignment—the **annotated bibliography**-- you identified relevant critical literature from both digital and print sources. You also found visual data that was relevant to your topic.

In this assignment—your fifteen-minute long PowerPoint presentation—you will explain your emerging project to the class and use the sources you identified in your bibliography. Unlike the final paper, which is a finished project, this presentation will discuss your work in progress and your preliminary findings. This assignment is intended to help you to begin articulating your ideas for a more fully-developed term paper.

Elements of the presentation:

Your presentation should include the following. Please note: these are elements to be included in your presentation. You may include other items and you may present them in the order that makes sense to you. You should not view this list of items as a checklist which you mechanically follow.

- A brief description of your topic. Example: Baudelaire's Paris and Modernity discusses . . . (50 words maximum)
- A one-page chronology of the author's life giving special emphasis to the works and life events most relevant to your topic. Example: you might emphasize the works of Baudelaire that specifically evoke Paris.
- A brief (approximately 20 words) explanation of a **key concept** relevant to the author and his or her works. Example: Discuss how Baudelaire defines *modernité*. (He is credited with having invented the term.)
- A brief characterization of two relevant texts: (20 words maximum) Example: a poem from Baudelaire's *Spleen de Paris* and/or an extract from his *Peintre de la vie moderne*.
- A brief commentary on a relevant quotation from one or both of the texts. You should show the quotation on a slide and comment on the text with your notes. Do not read your PowerPoint text.
- A few points mentioning directions you would like to explore in your final paper.
- A page listing **selected sources**. (These will be drawn from your Annotated Bibliography.)
- Some **images** which are relevant to your topic. Example: Paintings by Baudelaire's contemporaries or photographs taken by his friend, Nadar. Baudelaire discusses several contemporary painters in his writings.

Information Literacy goals:

- To use print and digital information in an **ethical** way as a means of exploring a substantive topic. (Your presentation will make use of sources you previously identified and **assessed** in your bibliographical project.)
- To demonstrate creativity in putting together a clear and visually attractive presentation.

Other goals:

- To learn independently about a major literary figure and the locale in which s/he lived and wrote;
- To communicate effectively in French.

Guidelines:

- Carefully quote all sources following the guidelines of the MLA Style Sheet.
- Carefully spellcheck and proof your texts. Be especially careful to avoid errors of gender.
- Adhere to the time constraints.

Evaluation and Assessment:

Your presentation will be evaluated **by the instructor** according to the following criteria:

- Your use of relevant print, digital, and visual sources;

- The clarity and succinctness of your explanation of your topic;
- The care with which the presentation is assembled;
- Your imaginative use of visual material;
- Your attentiveness to the time limitation. (Practice your presentation and time it.)

Your fellow-students will be called upon to respond to an **evaluation questionnaire** assessing the efficacy of your presentation in terms of clarity and what they learned.

Topics:

1. Romantic revolution, exile, and networking – Germaine de Staël in Coppet, Switzerland
2. The Romantic “Cénacle” - Victor Hugo and Romantic Poets in Paris
3. Romantic Escapes - George Sand in Spain, Mérimée in Spain
4. Romantic Orientalists: Chateaubriand in Jerusalem, Flaubert in Egypt
5. Modernism and the City I – Charles Baudelaire
6. Modernism and the City II – Guillaume Apollinaire
7. Jean-Paul Sartre on Colonialism
8. Camus and Algeria
9. Modern Poetry in the French Antilles- Aimé Césaire
10. Film and the novel in Indochina – Marguerite Duras