

IS 1001 First Year Seminar: Voices From the Edge
Book Project Description and Grading

Each of you is part of a group that is reading the same book. You should get together with your group and decide upon a reading schedule that works for you all to ensure that the whole text is read. You will collaboratively prepare for and deliver a presentation in one of our class periods. Your presentation should consist of the following (these steps do not need to be in this order!):

- Briefly summarize the book for those who have not read it
- Discuss how the book relates to our themes of isolation and community
- Discuss other major themes and ideas in the book
- Present an aesthetic response to the book. For example, do a skit or readers' theater, write and present a poem or song, create a collage or other artistic work, create your own comic book related to your novel, etc. The sky's the limit!
- Present information/research on a topic from your book. For example, if your choice book were *Fat Kid Rules the World* you might research body image, punk music, or teen suicide.

A sample plan or outline for a presentation might be like this:

- Reader's theater/skit to hook audience (10 min.)
- Discuss themes of the book, why the quotes in the reader's theater were chosen (5 min.)
- Short summary of book (5 min.)
- Discuss how the book relates to course themes (5 min.)
- Research topic presented (10-15 min.)

Grading rubric:

You will receive two grades for this project—a group grade and an individual grade. Your group grade will be determined by using the rubric below.

Criterion	1	3	5	Score
Communication Skills and Organization	Presentation was poorly organized and/or some presenters were not involved. Presenters displayed many distracting characteristics ("Um", "OK", etc.)	Presentation was organized. Most presenters had an equal role and communicated well with only a few distractions.	Presentation was clearly organized. Each presenter had a role. Presenters communicated fluently with good rate, tone, and volume of voice and no distracting elements.	___x2=___
Research: Quality of Information	The presenters relied primarily on a single source for their information and/or coverage of topic was not detailed.	Topic was appropriate to the book and presenters consulted several sources. Coverage was adequate but not thorough.	The presenters clearly consulted many sources in finding their information. They avoided bias and provided thorough coverage of the topic. Topic was appropriate to the book.	___x3=___
Aesthetic Response	Aesthetic response was missing or was poorly done.	Presenters were creative but aesthetic response seemed hastily thrown together.	Presenters displayed creativity and work ethic in compiling their aesthetic response.	___x2=___
Relation to Course Themes	Presenters made no effort to make connections between their book and the course themes.	Presenters tried to make connections between their book and course themes but it was stretched thin.	Presenters clearly tied information from their book to the course themes.	___x2=___
Summary and Themes	Summary was missing, confusing, or comprised the bulk of the presentation.	Summary was overly cumbersome or minimally helpful.	Summary was helpful to those who had not read the book but was not the bulk of the presentation.	___x1=___
Grading	C=35-39	B=40-44	A=45-50	