

## Independent Reading Assignment Quarter 1 (Book Talk Persuasive Speech AND Book Review Written Assignment)

### I. The Book Talk Persuasive Speech

The goal of the book talk is to “sell” your book to the rest of the class in five minutes by creating a convincing and logical argument. You want to encourage your classmates to read the book. In order to do this, you will have to present the book using a particular focus (a slant or angle—an “act/skit”—a focus on one aspect of the book while still giving a general overview of it). This is especially important because some of your classmates may be reading the same book. You will need to consider the following:

1. **presentation aid**—visual, audio, handouts, or some other creative aid to support your claims about the book
2. **time**—your speech should be about five minutes (points deducted for 30 seconds or more under or over)
3. **content**—do not give away too much of the story! Remember that you want to create interest so that others will want to read the book, too. Even if you didn’t like the book, you have to make the audience think it was a spectacular read. Find a particular focus, such as one sub-plot, one character, or one relationship. Be thorough to show your understanding of the book—your audience should be convinced you read and understood the book.
4. **oral presentation**—do not read your speech! Speak loudly, clearly, and use language that is appropriate for the class. Do not rush, make eye contact, and don’t just look at the teacher!
5. **preparedness**—practice your speech and have index cards or other aids to help you. After the presentation, expect to be asked questions about your book.

### Book Talk Scoring Guide

#### Content (60%)

- \_\_\_ Introduction of book, author, and topic of your presentation
- \_\_\_ Genuinely attempts to “sell” the book—no contradictory comments
- \_\_\_ Stays on topic
- \_\_\_ Has a clear introduction, body, and conclusion to the book talk
- \_\_\_ Does not give away too much of the book’s plot
- \_\_\_ Is thoughtful, thorough, and shows your understanding of the book

#### Presentation Aid (10%)

- \_\_\_ Related to the topic of the presentation
- \_\_\_ Neat in appearance, creative, and appealing to the audience
- \_\_\_ Visible/accessible to the audience
- \_\_\_ Does not take away from presentation

#### Presentation (30%)

- \_\_\_ Stays within time limit
- \_\_\_ Appears well organized and rehearsed
- \_\_\_ Speaks clearly and loudly
- \_\_\_ Maintains eye contact with class (attempts to look at everyone, does not just look at teacher)
- \_\_\_ Shows poise and moves appropriately (avoids restless or nervous movement/shifting, uses gestures appropriately)
- \_\_\_ Avoids space filling language (um, like, or whatever, etc) as much as possible
- \_\_\_ Does not merely read presentation
- \_\_\_ Appears excited about presentation and interested in topic
- \_\_\_ Uses appropriate language (formal speaking)

## II. The Book Review Written Assignment

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### **Format**

**10%**

- \_\_\_ typed, double spaced, 1 ½ to 3 pages
- \_\_\_ clever, descriptive title
- \_\_\_ TNR or equivalent, 12 point font
- \_\_\_ heading at the top left side: Name, Class, Date

### **Thesis/Introduction**

**10%**

- \_\_\_ creative, attention-getting introduction
- \_\_\_ introduces the title and author of the book
- \_\_\_ provides a provable thesis statement that creates a road map for the rest of your paper and utilizes the T+A+What+Why/How thesis

### **Content**

**35%**

- \_\_\_ addresses a limited topic of one book/play (1-3 major elements, such as characters, plot, setting, etc)
- \_\_\_ provides supporting details, evidence, examples from the book to help illustrate your thesis
- \_\_\_ is thorough in analyzing the focus or thesis of your paper

### **Body Paragraph Organization/Transitions**

**20%**

- \_\_\_ has a body of more than one paragraph (2-3 body paragraphs preferred)
- \_\_\_ presents support examples in a logical and understandable way
- \_\_\_ makes use of cohesive devices (transitions) between topics and paragraphs

### **Conclusion Paragraph**

**10%**

- \_\_\_ provides closure for your essay
- \_\_\_ goes over main points of your paper
- \_\_\_ does not introduce new information

### **Mechanics/Grammar/Spelling**

**15%**

- \_\_\_ limited in errors
- \_\_\_ applies formal writing techniques (no contractions—don't, can't, won't or 2<sup>nd</sup> person—you/yourself)
- \_\_\_ pays special attention to creative, fresh word choice
- \_\_\_ is concise and to the point

**\*Must be submitted to Turnitin.com**