Culminating Activity: Research

**Task:** Research and present a summary of each novel (at least two), a brief biography of the authors, the historical context (consider politics and social justice issues), and how the novels compare and contrast through particular elements of fiction. Conclude with a review of each text.

**PRESENTATION:**

Find information on the following topics:

* **The authors**
	+ Include important biographical information (be selective) and pay particular attention to information that connects to the texts your group chose. Interviews and news articles are excellent sources of information.
* **Historical context**
	+ When was the text written? What political and social issues are relevant to the texts? Consider topics such as education, civil rights, justice system (laws), etc.
* **Your texts**
	+ Give a BRIEF summary of the texts your group has chosen.
	+ Explain how the texts connect through the elements of fiction (plot, character, setting, theme, etc.)
	+ Note: BE SPECIFIC! Refer to particular characters, lines, events, etc. USE QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPORT!!!
* **Review**
	+ Give a review of the texts that you read – are these reads you would recommend? Explain and support your opinion.

You **must** include:

* Some kind of visual aid (power point, poster, illustrations, etc.).
* A written outline of your presentation.
* A clear beginning, middle and end.

Make sure your information is presented **in your own words**, and **cite** (credit) any sources that you use, either from the internet or other texts in **a formal MLA bibliography** attached to your presentation outline.

**WRITING:**

1. Prepare Written Component **Part 1:**
	1. “Performance Information” :
* An outline of your presentation (include a print-out of power point slides – 6 per page)
* the topics and corresponding presenters

1. Prepare Written Component **Part 2**:
	1. “Context”:
* Give a **short** summary of each text (think back of the book)
* Explain which connections your presentation covered that you found to be the most interesting
	1. “Self-evaluation”:
* Explain why you wanted to be involved in this type of presentation, how you personally contributed to the task, what you did well, and what you could improve upon.

**Checklist:**

* Have you covered all important connections?
* Does your presentation use specific details from each text?
* Does your presentation demonstrate a thorough understanding of the texts and their elements of fiction?
* Does each group member have a clear set of tasks to accomplish?
* Have you created a clear display poster or power point/prezi with no spelling mistakes?
* Does each member of the group know their part?
* Have you rehearsed at least twice as a group?