

Directions: Pose a question as directed by the response below by this Friday. By next Monday 2:00 p.m., be sure to answer any questions that have been posed to you about your presentation. If no one has asked any questions, do at least two other discussion postings either to ask questions or to answer them regarding other classmates' presentations.

Prompt: Take a look at the novel presentations created by your classmates and by Thursday, see if you have a question about the novel they presented on. Be sure to answer any questions that your classmates ask about your presentation and novel by next Monday 2:00 p.m.

Re: Amethyst Forrest's Report on Great Expectations

I enjoyed your essay and found it thorough, but not saturated with details. The structure was very organized and flowed well. There are some typos that suggest you didn't have a proofreader available, but this doesn't make it less enjoyable to read; it only appears a little rough around the edges.

I did find one omission that I think detracts immensely from the amount of work that you clearly put into this assignment: the presentational aspect is completely absent. Your report looks and reads like a well thought out essay that was simply dumped into a web page. Nothing separates it from a normal essay. Usually, when a person selects the website format as the medium for a work, it is because he or she is able to incorporate pictures, videos, music... media content of many varieties. There is only one major alternative to this approach that I can think of and it is the "information rich" site: one that has many hyperlinks to other pages that contain related content, providing a convenient way to condense large amounts of information within the same space. (What reminded me of this was Greg Mushial's presentation, which has only one graphic of a book cover at the top but lots of links to different parts of the InterWeb.)

I have one last comment to share, which is also by biggest complaint. *Great Expectations* was the only book on the list I have already read and I enjoyed it a great deal. What is your opinion of the book? Did you like it or dislike it? I wouldn't say that it's necessary for this to be included—directly stated with its own section or even sprinkled here and there throughout—but I would have found your essay all the more interesting if I could have developed a sense of how you reacted to the story and read some of your unique interpretations.

Good job, though, and hopefully my post is at least as constructive as it is highly critical.

Re: Week 12: Discussion #2 (re: Chad Johnson)

Hello Chad,

I thought the graphics you used for your Jane Eyre presentation were super! I can tell you put much thought and effort into your presentation. Overall, I thought you did a nice job!

Two parts of your presentation that I especially liked are:

1. *"Jane Eyre spoke with too personal a voice to be ignored." I liked this because it is so true. The narrator is able to let us know, and to keep us advised of, what is going on with the protagonist.*

2. *"The story Jane Eyre garners significant attention to this day." I liked this because it shows that people today can still relate to her trials and tribulations, as well as her triumphs and victories.*

I also did a presentation of Jane Eyre, but had to remove 2/3 of the graphics in order to submit via email. I'm glad that you were able to submit with your graphics. Again, nice presentation.

Thanks, Diane. I had a hell of a time getting Powerpoint 2003 to align my text and graphics satisfactorily and ended up switching to the newest version of OpenOffice. Even still it was quite a hassle, but at least I was able to make it work. This presentation is the first time I've ever tried to make my slides look somewhat decent—I never realized how incredibly fussy the program is. Anyway, "yes", it did take a lot of effort to get things to turn out that way.

That's too bad that you had to remove some of your graphics. I came really close to running into the same issue: my first PDF file was about 530KB, but I was able to trim it without losing anything by giving a special command to the program.

Re: Ms. Yuan's Moonstone

quite often one finds incompatibilities btwn the two. For more than half of your pages, they do reneeder well in OO - text hanging off the bottom pages, extra spaces - all things that I'm positive were not in what you worked with...

It also happens in Powerpoint 2003 (even though it's not supposed to).

PDF definitely does the job. The only things you lose are those goofy animations and stupid sounds (WHOOOSH!). I know the newer version of OpenOffice has a direct export to PDF, which is very handy and what I used. The newer versions of MS Office might have it too, but probably not.

There's a free program called PDFCreator that works with any program. It tricks your computer into thinking that it is a normal printer and then spits out a PDF file for you to save wherever you wish. The website is <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>.

Re: Ms. Yuan's Moonstone

Your presentation was very nice, by the way. It was wordy in the middle, when describing the events of the story. Perhaps it could have been more brief (although, maybe not). That's the only place I can see where it might be improved.

As mentioned earlier, the alignment issues are a bummer because it's obvious that you spent a bit of time tweaking the visual arrangements. Computers are known to do this sort of thing: you can spend a lot of time aligning something only to find that it display 42 different ways on 42 different computers. That's why PDF is the way to go.