

	Project Name: A Gilded Guide	Start Date: 10/10/2019
	Class: _AMEX_ Block: __1__	End Date: 11/1/2019

A) Discuss how you feel about your presentation. What went well? What could you have improved upon? In what ways did your group use the rubric to prepare the presentation? How did they use critical friends?

I think we did pretty good on the presentation, although there are also some ways we could have done better. We did well preparing our topic and researching so that we could confidently talk about it as we presented; along with this, we had a script that was relatively structured and we rehearsed beforehand, which helped us avoid any long silences or awkward moments. However, we could have done a better job at writing our introduction and conclusion so that we could confidently start and end our podcast. Along with this, we should have incorporated our sources more directly into our presentation so that the things we talked about were supported. We used the rubric mostly as a way to make sure we were creating an interesting and engaging podcast that didn't make the listener yawn and click to the next episode, as that was a big part of the final grade. Thanks to the presentation, we got a lot of great critical friends (including the things I discussed above), which made our final product turn out a lot better than our presentation. I am particularly proud of us for taking the time to rehearse, as this meant that we didn't have to waste time messing up and re-recording; this helped us stay stress-free and happy as we worked.

B) For this project we flipped the presentation and final product due date, how did this impact your work on the project? What pieces did you take from your presentation that you applied to your final product?

I liked the idea of giving critical friends during the presentation, and those presentations definitely helped us create a much more polished final product. It also gave us a chance to hear how other groups organized their podcasts, which provided some inspiration for us. I think the most important feedback we got was to tighten up our introduction and conclusion to make it feel more stable and structured. When we presented, we had a hard time closing our podcast in a strong way, which made the ending kind of abrupt and boring. We also noticed how some groups had a clever podcast name and snappy introduction, so we took inspiration from that and created a stronger introduction to make our podcast sound more realistic.

C) What are "next steps" for your group to better prepare for a presentation and completing the final product? And "next steps" for yourself?

As we transition into a new project, I think a good next step would be to establish a more detailed contract that kept people on task. In addition, we should create a documented task list that everyone can access at all times. Another next step may be to meet outside of school to make sure our presentation and final product were as good as they could be. A next step for myself would be to spend more time working on organization and fine-tuning when it comes to our presentation materials so that we can transition more smoothly.

D) What is one "risk" you took in this project? How do you feel that risk paid off? What kind of risk would you like to try next time?

I think a risk that I took in this project is my relaxation when it came to who did what on our final product and my trust that my group members would work as hard as I would on our final product. I also think this paid off pretty well! The group that I got for this project worked very well together and I knew from previous projects that I tend to be too anxious and overcontrolling about the final project and I sometimes prevent my group members from contributing their full skills to the project. So for this project, I tried to trust my group members more and use my best skills to work on a side of the project that fit me best, while sitting back and watching them contribute their skills to other parts of the project. Not only did this result in a more diverse and interesting final podcast that displayed our talents in different ways, but it also meant that I didn't feel as bogged down and stressed by excess work. I learned a lot about trusting my group members more in this project and I will definitely be taking what I learned with me as we begin our next project.

E) For this project the groups were created by your peers. What were some positives and some drawbacks about your group dynamics with this project? How does this grouping compare to previous groups this semester?

I think that our group worked very well together, as we all were very motivated to make a great final product and had a lot of different talents that melded well together. Because we had a mix of people that did well with sound editing, writing, and art, we were able to use these skills in a way that evenly distribute the workload throughout the group. We also were highly motivated and all seemed to know how to effectively use our time outside of class. However, I think that sometimes we got a bit too confident in our ability to get things done at home, so we were not as efficient during class work time as we could have been. Despite this, the group for this project has definitely been my favorite, and I am especially happy with how well and comfortably we were able to work together.

F) What are some of the things you liked about the project? What would you want to stay the same? What suggestions for improvements do you have for this project?

I enjoyed working on the final product and I am very glad that we decided to switch over to a podcast! I also liked the idea of doing the presentation before turning in the final product, as the feedback that we got after the presentation helped us improve our final product a lot. The only difficult part was the lack of presentation time and the big gap right before the day of presentations, since that had definitely mixed us up a bit when it came to smoothly presenting our topic. I also liked reading the Jungle, and I am glad that we decided to use the study guide as a way to keep track of the book (since it was much longer than the book we had previously read). I think a lot of people had a hard time with the length, but I started the study guide over two weeks before it was done, so I only had to do two or three chapters a night and it was done in time. I think the biggest thing to improve for this project would be to spend a few more days focusing on streamlining and recording our final project. I feel like our group was lucky in the fact that we had no big mistakes during our recording time (like the group whose entire recording got deleted!) but it still felt a bit rushed when it came to recording the podcast. We didn't have time to fix any little audio mistakes, mess with the noise in the background, or edit any mistakes like plosives or messups in the script. So despite our efforts, This made me feel like our final podcast is not quite good enough to be submitted for the NPR contest. If our group gets chosen to be sent in, I hope we will have some time to improve our podcast before the submission date!