

Crossing Cultures Literature Research Activity

Reading in America includes many wonderful authors and styles. As America is a wonderful blend of cultures, so too is literature. In this activity, we will examine the authors who “Cross Cultures.”

Day 1 (Thursday, May 15)

Part I: You will be assigned an author from the following list; circle your assignment:

Sherman	Alexie	Toni	Morrison
Maya	Angelou	Lisel	Mueller
Gloria	Anzaldua	Bharati	Mukherjee
Nell	Bernstein	Gloria	Naylor
Alexis	Bloom	Dwight	Okita
Laura	Bohannon	Judith	Ortiz Cofer
Barbara	Brandt	George	Orwell
Ruth	Breen	Grace	Paley
Geraldine	Brooks	Sun	Park
Ian	Buruma	Harry Mark	Petrakis
Stephanie	Coontz	Michael	Pollan
Countee	Cullen	Theodore	Roethke
Michel Guillaume St. Jean de Crevecoeur		Mike	Rose
Susan	Douglas	Wendy	Rose
Lars	Eighner	Mark	Salzman
Martin	Espada	Dan	Savage
Roxane	Farmanfarmaian	Jack G.	Shaheen
Joshua	Gamson	Anton	Shammas
Malcolm	Gladwell	Gary	Soto
Eva	Hoffman	Brent	Staples
Jeanne Wakatsuki	Houston	Jonathan	Swift
James D.	Houston	Amy	Tan
Jane	Howard	Piri	Thomas
Pico	Iyer	Nicolette	Toussaint
Gish	Jen	Lindsay	Van Gelder
Alfred	Kazin	Vendela	Vida
Robin D. G.	Kelley	Walter	White
Jamaica	Kincaid	Elizabeth	Wong
Maxine Hong	Kingston	Malcolm	X
Robert	Levine		
Bette Bao	Lord		
Maria	Laurino		
Marcus	Mabry		
Daniel	Meier		
Meredith	Michaels		
Aurora Levins	Morales		
John David	Morley		

Day 1 (Thursday, May 15)

Part II: Review the author's background

Read the brief biography about your author in the book *Crossing Cultures*. Answer the questions below by PARAPHRASING the information.

Review: What is paraphrasing?

What is your author's background? (Remember to paraphrase)

What other works has your author written? (Remember to paraphrase and write in a complete sentence)

What "voice" does your author represent in literature? (culture, gender, time period, etc.)

STOP!



If I *PARAPHRASE* information, do I have to still *CITE THE SOURCE*? *Yes* or *No* (*circle the answer*)

Citing Sources: Use the LMC website to discover how to cite this source. Record the bibliographic information for the book *Crossing Cultures* below:

Day 1 (Thursday, May 15)

Part III: Research your author

Using Gale Net, ProQuest or Newsbank in the LMC, find two other sources of information about your author. These may be articles written by the author or about the author.

Using your SUMMARIZING skills, read the articles and SUMMARIZE the articles below:

Article 1 Summary:

Return to the LMC web page and format the bibliography information for this article. Record it below:

Article 2 Summary:

Return to the LMC web page and format the bibliography information for this article. Record it below:

Day 2 (Monday, May 19)

Part IV: Reading Literature

Read the selection by your author in the *Crossing Cultures* book. Complete the following:

SUMMARIZE the selection:

How does this piece reflect the author's voice in literature?

Write three questions you have about the author's cultural background (region, ethnicity, gender, etc.). These could be questions that have arisen after reading the selection.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Day 2 (Monday, May 19)

Part V: Research Again 😊

Using ProQuest, Newsbank, or the encyclopedias available on the LMC web site, find the answers to the three questions above.

Question 1 answer:

For this answer, I (circle one):

Paraphrased

Summarized

Directly Quoted (use “”)

Source for this answer:

Question 2 answer:

For this answer, I (circle one):

Paraphrased

Summarized

Directly Quoted (use “”)

Source for this answer:

Question 3 answer:

For this answer, I (circle one):

Paraphrased

Summarized

Directly Quoted (use “”)

Source for this answer:

Days 3 and 4 (Wednesday, May 21, and Friday, May 23)

Part VI: Put it all together!

Complete this activity by producing three products:

1. Write a review of the author and selection to post on a web site for students to use when finding new authors. Incorporate information from sections 2, 3, 4, AND 5 when writing your review. Use parenthetical references when using information from other sources. We will distribute a sample in class when we get to this point. You will save this in my drop box for transfer to the web site.
2. Create a review suitable for display in the library with the most pertinent information about your author. Include the “voice” this author represents. Be sure to use parenthetical referencing here as well. If you include a visual on this display piece, don’t forget to cite the source directly below the image.
3. A bibliography of all sources cited. Use the LMC research section to help you complete this activity.

Assessment Considerations

Four grades will be assigned for the following:

1. In-class work and completion of the packet.
2. Review for the web site:
 - o Includes information from sections 2, 3, 4, **and** 5.
 - o Demonstrates an understanding of the author and his/her work.
 - o Reflects the “voice” the author represents in literature.
 - o Contains parenthetical references for works cited.
 - o Uses paraphrase, summary, and direct notation correctly.
 - o Uses correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
3. Review for library display:
 - o Demonstrates the “voice” the author represents in literature;
 - o Contains parenthetical references for works cited.
 - o Is visually pleasing and easy to read.
 - o Uses correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
4. Bibliography
 - o Lists all sources cited.
 - o Uses correct MLA format.