Your **20-minute presentation** should include the following elements:

- Information about the author, a brief overview of the text, and the presentation of relevant context
  - **Introduction to the author.** Date of birth and death; active period of writing; any significant literary movements or circles in which the author participated; any significant biographical details, if any, that influenced the text you are analyzing, …
  - **Historical Context.** Any social, political, cultural, scientific, … events that are significant to your argument.
- An argument or a question that your presentation will address
- A clear trajectory through which you will develop your analysis of the text
  - A list of 2-3 sub-arguments or topics according to which you have organized your analysis
- A selection of passages from the text that you will read and analyze in support of your observations
  - You may flag these passages with sticky-notes in your copy of the book.
- A conclusion

**No more than 5 minutes** of your presentation should be dedicated to information about the author, the summary of the text, and the context.

- **Tip:** Limit the biographical and contextual information to those elements that are essential to the development of your argument and analysis.

The overview or summary of the text that you provide should be limited to the introduction of your presentation and should not exceed 2-3 sentences. Your objective in this exercise is to propose an **analysis** of the work, **not** a description or summary. You are seeking to **demonstrate** something about the text or bring our attention to some aspect of the text that is not self-evident (i.e. that goes beyond “what happens in the text” or “what the text is about”).

**In your conclusion,** you may consider explaining why you chose this text for comps and how it relates to other francophone works you have encountered (at Amherst, during study abroad, …)

- If it is a text you have read for a class, you may wish to explain the context in which you studied it, and how your presentation has examined this text from a different perspective or further developed the threads you had already explored in class.
- If the text you have selected is new to you (i.e. you had not encountered it in a class), you may wish to explain what drew you to it.

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Sample outline:

- Introduction [5 minutes]
  - Presentation of author, text, context [4 minutes]
  - Presentation of question or argument + path [1 minute]
- Analysis [12-13 minutes]
  - Topic 1 (4:00-4:30 mins for 3 topics; 6:00 minutes for 2 topics)
    - explanation of this topic/ its connection to your main questions or argument
    - 1-2 passages from the text (reading + analysis)
  - Topic 2
  - Topic 3
- Conclusion [2-3 minutes]
  - Reflections on connection between this text and courses you have taken in the French Department (or other areas of study)