Working in groups and using computers, research one of the following contemporary poem collections:

1. Allen Ginsberg, Diane Di Prima, Neil Cassady, Gregory Corso, Anne Waldman, Michael McClure, William S. Burroughs, Jack Kerouac (Pick 3)
2. Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston, James Weldon Johnson, Claude Mckay (Pick 3)
3. Sylvia Plath, Mary Oliver, Elizabeth Bishop, Anne Sexton, Robert Lowell, Ted Berrigan (Pick 3)
4. Ezra Pound, Marianne Moore, Hilda Doolittle, William Carlos Williams, James Joyce, D.H. Lawrence (Pick 3)
5. Billy Collins, Charles Bukowski, Matthew Dickman, Sharon Olds, Ted Kooser (Pick 3)
6. Natasha Tretheway, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sherman Alexie, Kevin Young, Robert Hayden, Wislawa Szymborska (Pick 3)

Pick 2 of the following questions to answer for each poet. You should answer all of the following questions, but you can spread them out instead of having to answer all 5 questions for each poet:

1. How do these poets reflect the time periods they were writing in? (Note what common thread ties these poets together. In the first 4 categories that answer should be pretty easy to find, but the last 2 will require some creativity on your part.)

2. How important were the author’s own experiences to the poems they wrote?

3. How or why is their poetry relevant to us today?

4. What kind of tone permeates their poetry?

5. Do they have a notable style (free verse, ballad, lyrical, sonnet etc.), or use of rhetorical devices?

(For example, I might answer the first two questions regarding Allen Ginsberg, then the next two questions I would use to talk about Kerouac, then for the last two questions I would talk about Burroughs. The objective of this assignment is to expose you to the type of analysis you will be writing about in your final essay. When you are writing your final essay your analysis will go much deeper than these presentations, but this is a good way to introduce your classmates to a myriad of poets and their personal styles.)

**Create a PowerPoint** or a **Prezi** (+2 points)that answers these questions. Include a picture of the authors you choose, and pick your favorite poem from each author to read, paraphrase, and interpret with the class.

Bonus: If you can find a video of the poet reading or performing their work to share. (+5 points)

Your presentations should be 10-15 minutes long. Seriously, it will take you this long to adequately get through the poetry of each poet.