

Tenacity Challenge
2019-2020

Tenacity Literature Event
2019-2020

**Digital Submission Due
March 8, 2020, 11:59 PM**

Titles (choose one):

Kindred by Octavia E. Butler
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest J. Gaines
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
The Known World by Edward P. Jones
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

This year's prompt: How does this novel address the experience of enslavement and its personal, historical, and cultural legacies?

Please note that all three parts of your Literature entry must be submitted in full by the deadline, since the event is judged before competition day. **The deadline for this year's literature entries is 3/8/2020.**

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARATION

Step 1. Read a Novel from the List.

As a team, select a novel from the list. Read the novel carefully and discuss it with your team. This year's focus is contemporary novels that take on the topic of slavery.

Step 2. Compose a Creative Response and Video Inspired by the Novel

All team members may contribute to this script, but only three may perform in the video. There are three goals for your response and video:

1. To address the guiding question
2. To share your insights about the novel's story, characters, themes, and literary elements.
3. To create a dynamic and engaging experience for the viewer.

In composing the response, you may take any or all of the following approaches:

- Imitate the author's style (tone, diction, sentence structure, etc.).
- Incorporate key sentences, images or motifs from the novel.
- Borrow the novel's narrative form or techniques.
- Keep in mind that it will essentially serve as the script for a recorded performance, and that the performance may not exceed five minutes.

A few suggestions:

- A rap or spoken-word poem addressed to the author or character(s)
- A scene set immediately or long after the events of the novel.
- A fully dramatized monologue or conversation
- A presentation of objects in a memory box

To create the video:

- Choose up to three team members to read or perform the response in the video.
- Record a live performance that conveys your response in a dynamic, engaging way.
- Include only what can be performed live on a stage or in a sound booth. Simple costumes, props, and chairs are permitted; digital images and backgrounds are not permitted. You may not include or add any visual or auditory effects to your video that cannot be created by performers in a live stage performance. You may, however, film the performers from various distances and angles in any variety of indoor and outdoor settings.
- Keep the video to five minutes in length. The judges will stop watching at the 5:00 mark.
- Record the video in .mov or mp4 format
- The video may be edited using iMovie. It may include text such as titles and transitional cues, but no special effects.
- Use the following format when naming your video file: SchoolName.TeamName (for example, BedfordHigh.Buccaneers)

Step 3. Write a Rationale Explaining Your Creative Choices.

The purpose of the rationale is to explain how your video answers the guiding question and “fits” the work that inspired it. The rationale should not exceed 500 words. An effective rationale will briefly but clearly address most or all of the following questions:

- How does the novel you read address the experience of enslavement and its personal, historical, and cultural legacies?
- What, to you, were the most significant and inspiring aspects of the novel?
- What vision or message are you trying to communicate through your creative response and performance?
- What creative choices did you make for your response and performance that support your vision or message?
- What specific evidence from the novel supports these creative choices?
- What form and approach did you choose for your response, and why? (For example, does it develop a theme? incorporate a motif? experiment with voice or point of view? imitate the author’s style? etc.)
- What specific elements of your performance reflect key aspects of the original work?

- How does your performance enhance your intended vision or message?
- What challenges did the original work present, and how did you choose to handle them?

DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

To Format and Submit Your Response:

- The response may be any length that can be performed within five minutes. Be sure your final draft is an accurate transcript of what is included in the video.
- It must be typed and double-spaced. Save it in a separate file from the rationale.
- At the top of the document, type the name of your team and your school and the author and title of the novel you read.
- Name the file SchoolName.TeamName.LiteratureResponse.
- Put the file in Google Drive and share it with tenacitychallenge@gmail.com. OR send the file via email as an attachment to tenacitychallenge@gmail.com.
- If emailed, in the subject line of the email, please type *TC Response* and your team name.
- **The file must be shared or emailed by midnight on 3/8/2020.**
- Receipt of your response will be acknowledged by email within two days.

To submit the video electronically:

- A Google Docs or Google Drive account is required. Most schools already have access to this resource. If you do not, you may create a free Gmail account to access this feature
- Your video file **MUST** be in one of the following formats: .mov or mp4
- Upload your .mov or mp4 to your Google Drive.
- Click the share link, and enter the following email address: tenacitychallenge@gmail.com. This will allow us to share or download the video.
- **The video must be shared by midnight on 3/8/2020.**
- Receipt of your video will be acknowledged by email within two days; we will email the address associated with the Google Drive account.
- Keep a copy of your video in case it is lost in transit or the file becomes corrupted or unplayable.

To Format and Submit Your Rationale:

- The rationale should not exceed 500 words, not including information in the heading.
- It must be typed and double-spaced. Save it in a separate file from the response.
- At the top of the document, type the name of your team and your school and the author and title of the novel you read.
- Name the file SchoolName.TeamName.LiteratureRationale.

- Put the file in Google Drive and share it with tenacitychallenge@gmail.com. OR send the file via email as an attachment to tenacitychallenge@gmail.com.
- If emailed, in the subject line of the email, please type *TC Rationale* and your team name.
- **The rationale must be shared or emailed by midnight on 3/8/2020.**
- Receipt of your response will be acknowledged by email within two days.

Step 5. Judging.

Entries will be evaluated and scored on the response (40%), the video performance (40%), and the rationale (20%). All entries will be evaluated by at least three judges, according to the rubric viewable on page 5. A simplified checklist keyed to the rubric is provided below.

The judges' scores will be averaged. Averages will be extended to four decimal places to determine the highest score. The team with the highest aggregate Literature score will be declared the winner of the Literature Event.

In the event of a tie, judges will each assign one point to the entry they consider the stronger response. This point is for tie-breaking purposes only. It will not factor into the cumulative score determining the overall winner of the competition.

Judging Checklist - See Full Rubric on the Following Page

Response (40%)

- ☐ Effectively modeled on the original works in voice, style or image
- ☐ Rich and intuitive details develop theme/motif identified in both works
- ☐ Inventive, highly imaginative, and engaging
- ☐ Expands/demonstrates strong understanding of the original

Rationale (20%)

- ☐ Develops and defends creative choices and “fit”
- ☐ Specifically references both inspiring works and creative piece

Video Performance (40%)

- ☐ Consistently speaks clearly at consistent pace and volume
- ☐ Effectively uses gestures, facial expressions, and eye contact
- ☐ Staging and preparation support delivery & convey meaning
- ☐ Reflects effective planning and preparation

Step 6. Winning Entries Will Be Presented on Competition Day.

The top three teams in the Literature event will be informed of their placement on the day of the competition. Time permitting, they will present their rationales and videos to all participants.

To view a sampling of past winning and placing entries, please return to the Tenacity Literature page.

Questions? **Contact Jen Ilchuk at 781-275-1700 ext 4446.**

English Literature Scoring Rubric

	31-40	21-30	11-20	0-10
Creative Response	<p>Creative response effectively modeled on the original work in voice, style, and/or imagery.</p> <p>Rich and intuitive details develop theme, motif and/or characters.</p> <p>Well-paced and sequenced.</p> <p>Inventive, highly imaginative, engaging.</p> <p>Reflects deep understanding of the original work.</p> <p>Provides viewer with fresh insights into original work.</p>	<p>Creative response adequately modeled on the original work in voice, style, and/or imagery.</p> <p>Relevant details develop theme, motif and/or characters.</p> <p>Deliberately paced and clearly organized.</p> <p>Imaginative and engaging.</p> <p>Reflects adequate understanding of the original work.</p>	<p>Creative response loosely or partially modeled on the original work in voice, style, and/or imagery.</p> <p>Limited details develop theme, motif, and/or characters.</p> <p>Inconsistently paced and/or organized.</p> <p>Includes some imaginative elements, may be unclear or underdeveloped.</p> <p>Reflects partial understanding of the original work.</p>	<p>Creative response insufficiently modeled on original work in voice, style, and/or imagery.</p> <p>Few or no details develop theme, motif, or characters.</p> <p>Ineffectively paced and/or poorly organized.</p> <p>Imaginative elements lack clarity, originality, or coherence.</p> <p>Reflects minimal understanding of the original work.</p>
	31-40	21-30	11-20	0-10
Video Performance	<p>Consistently speaks clearly and audibly; controls pace, volume, tone and expression to reinforce meaning and engage the audience.</p> <p>Consistently and effectively uses gestures, facial expressions, and, if appropriate, eye contact.</p> <p>Stage elements (e.g., blocking, props, costumes as needed) and camera work (e.g., distances and angles) strongly support and enhance development of concept, theme, and/or character.</p> <p>Reflects effective planning and preparation.</p>	<p>Speaks clearly and audibly; adequately controls pace, volume, tone and expression to reinforce meaning and engage the audience.</p> <p>Uses adequate gestures, facial expressions and, if appropriate, eye contact.</p> <p>Stage elements and camera work adequately support development of concept, theme, and/or character.</p> <p>Reflects adequate planning and preparation.</p>	<p>Sometimes speaks clearly and audibly; inconsistently controls pace, volume, tone and/or expression to reinforce meaning and engage the audience.</p> <p>Sometimes uses gestures, facial expressions and, if appropriate, eye contact.</p> <p>Stage elements and camera work occasionally or unclearly support concept, theme, and/or character.</p> <p>Reflects cursory planning and preparation.</p>	<p>Unclear or inaudible; lacks control over pace, volume, tone and/or expression to reinforce meaning and engage the audience.</p> <p>Rarely uses gestures, facial expressions or, if appropriate, eye contact.</p> <p>Stage elements and camera work do not support concept, theme, and/or character.</p> <p>Reflects insufficient planning and preparation.</p>
	16-20	11-15	6-10	0-5
Rationale	<p>Clearly and convincingly develops and defends rationale for creative choices.</p> <p>Soundly and logically explains “fit” between the original and created piece.</p> <p>Incorporates supporting textual evidence from both original text and creative response.</p> <p>Reflects close, accurate reading of original text.</p>	<p>Develops and defends rationale for creative choices.</p> <p>Shows strong effort to explain “fit” between the original and created piece.</p> <p>Incorporates textual evidence from both original text and creative response.</p> <p>Reflects largely accurate reading of original text.</p>	<p>Shows effort to develop and defend rationale for creative choices.</p> <p>Shows effort to explain “fit” between the original and created piece.</p> <p>Incorporates some textual evidence from either original text or creative response.</p> <p>Reflects loose or incomplete reading of original text.</p>	<p>Insufficiently develops and defends rationale for creative choices.</p> <p>Inadequate effort to explain “fit” between the original and created piece.</p> <p>Incorporates little to no textual evidence from either original text or creative response.</p> <p>Reflects inaccurate or incomplete reading of original text.</p>