**ENGL 353/3353 – North American Indigenous Literature**

**Dr. Geoff Hamilton**

**Poetry Presentation Guidelines**

**Weight: 12.5%**

**Length: 6-8 minutes (do not exceed the upper limit)**

**Due date: variable (see sign-up sheet)**

Browse the following two sites, each of which presents a selection of Indigenous poems and brief author biographies:

1. Poetry in Voice – Indigenous

<https://www.poetryinvoice.com/tags/indigenous>

2. Poetry Foundation – Native American Poetry and Culture

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/144560/native-american-poetry-and-culture>

After browsing the above sites, select *one* poem which intrigues you and consider how, exactly, it intersects with themes broached in class.

Your job now is to present your selected poem to the class, offering some incisive commentary on its substantive and formal features (instructing the class, that is, about *what* the poem seems to be expressing and *how* it seems to express it).

Suggested format

- begin with a very brief biographical summary of your author (just a few pertinent details

would be fine here)

- read the poem in its entirety, including its title

- draw connections between your poem and other works and themes broached in class,

explaining how this work might intersect with our previous discussions

- point to specific formal features of the poem itself (e.g. diction, figurative language, line

formatting, etc.) that seem significant and explain why

A strong presentation will

- highlight the relevance of your selected poem to our course’s themes

- illuminate some of the important substantive and formal features of the poem

- provide an overall sense of why this poem ‘matters’: that is, why it might be considered

meaningful and worth paying attention to

General tips

- this is *not* a research assignment; you do not need to consult any secondary sources (simply

reading your selected poem several times and thinking carefully about what it communicates

is all that is required here)

- do try to find a poem that you like; a successful presentation will typically convey the

speaker’s own sense of interest and engagement with the work

**Concise Grading Rubric**

This assignment will be graded out of ten.

Content (7 marks)

- author biography concisely articulated

- insightful analysis of the substance and form of the selected poem

- astute connections made to previous class discussions

Style (3 marks)

- lucid, engaging delivery (eye contact, reasonable pacing, confident tone)

- required time limits adhered to (6-8 mins)