

Researched Presentation

Warriors Don't Cry is a great springboard to many topics for discussion and investigation. For example, students could investigate and report on the civil rights movement in greater detail or examine other political issues from that era such as the Cold War or presidential elections. The conflicts dealt with in the book were polarized by the power struggle between the federal government and the governor of Arkansas, so the reading would provide students with a relevant, real-life reason to look at the system of federalism and the balance of powers between the federal and state governments. Another important application of this book for both American students and for international students learning about American culture is that it is a good example of how our interpretations of the ideals expressed in our founding documents have changed and evolved over time. An Associated Press readers' poll in December of 1957 voted the coverage of the Little Rock Nine as the number two news story of the past year (second only to the Russians' launching of the first Sputnik satellite). The book would be an enticing introduction to historical research using primary sources such as newspapers and magazines from the time, and such a study would help students understand the connection between freedom of the press, responsible journalism, and a just society. In spite of their experiences, the students portrayed in the book were still normal teens interested in popular music, fashions, and movies; some students would enjoy researching aspects of the popular culture of the 1950s.

I plan to give students the option of working alone or with a partner. Their final product will be a 10-15 minute presentation on a topic of their choice. We will have mini-presentations in conjunction with other books before *Warriors Don't Cry*. One of my school's CSP activities is to have students make oral presentations in each class. For this assignment, I will either use the following rubric or the one developed by the CSP committee.

Formal Presentation Rubric

Name:

Key:

+ = strong

√ = satisfactory

- = needs improvement

blank = not applicable

Date:

Score: /100

Content

___ Correct, complete, clear explanation of topic /30

___ Uses several ways to clarify or develop the content /10

-examples and stories

-quotes

-analogies

-statistics

___ Cites source of information /10

Uses techniques to relate content directly to audience

___ Uses visual aids which clarify or extend content /15

-simple and clear

-visible to all audience members

-appealing, colorful if appropriate, showing attention to neatness

-shown at appropriate time

-handled with poise

___ Relates content to audience with several attention factors /15

-variety

-humor

-audience involvement

-current issues

Applies language and speaking skills /20

___ Uses clear and appropriate general and specific language

___ Pronounces and applies all words and concepts correctly

___ Is well rehearsed; speaks easily from notes if used

___ Makes eye contact through most of the presentation

___ Varies with whom eye contact is made

___ Monitors audience for feedback

___ Shows poise and copes gracefully with unexpected problems

___ Uses varied, comfortable, and easy gestures and stance

___ Uses clear, comfortable, and varied volume

___ Uses clear, comfortable, and varied tone

___ Uses clear, comfortable, and varied pace

REQUIRED: Meets classroom standard for respectful and responsible speech and actions

YES

NO (50% penalty)