

**Guidelines for Leading a Brief Discussion or Giving a Short Presentation  
on the Theme of the Week  
in LLC's *Luminous Things: African American Poetry* – Winter 2022**

**General Purpose:** The poems in our anthology are organized by theme, a theme per chapter. Here are the themes we will address this semester:

- Representations of the Black Woman
- Black Manhood and its stresses
- Portrayals of the Black Child
- The Black Family: Soul Support—or not?
- The Church in the African American Experience
- Music in the African American Experience
- New Poems: Black Lives Matter
- Dreaming the Future

These are large and important themes, but our purpose in this class is to set up each theme as a *context* for the poems within the assigned chapter. Therefore, at the beginning of each class we will devote 10 -15 minutes, max., to establish the thematic context for the poems to be discussed. Session leaders are not expected to cover everything related to the theme. Rather, the purpose is to be evocative of the theme.

**Presentation or discussion format:** A presentation or discussion could take any of these formats:

- Give a brief 'tour' of the theme through highlights of core information, facts, dates, and impact.
- Focus on one aspect of the theme, highlighting important basic information and presenting a couple of powerful specific examples.
- Before class, share a helpful video or reading on the theme and lead a discussion on classmates' thought and reactions.
- Draw on the Questions in the Course Calendar to hold a discussion on the theme.
- Share your experience with the theme or an aspect of the theme. Ask for others' personal experiences.

**An Outline:**

- State your title, subject, approach (from the list above), and goal.
- Give a very brief preview of your information.
- Present your content in a clear order (chronological, spatial, important groupings, experiential.)
- State, in general, how you see this information linking to the poems in the chapter
- Summarize your main points
- If there is time: ask for questions or comments.

**Important:**

- If you give a presentation, please rehearse at home and time yourself. We will be strict about limiting these sessions to 10 minutes (15 min., max).
- If you want to present a slideshow or video, please do. We will help with screen sharing. But remember: 10 – 15 min., max., including comments and questions.
- When you include a slideshow, do NOT cut-and-paste passages from a book onto each slide. Do NOT read word-for-word from a slide or text. Use the slides as an outline and speak in our own words.
- If you choose to lead a discussion for the entire session or part of it, share your questions ahead of time so that classmates can offer thoughtful responses.
- If you need help or suggestions for your presentation or discussion, just ask one or us. Send us an email or call. We are here to help.