

## ADVANCED THEATRE GROUP #4

### Directions:

In your groups, create a presentation to teach the rest of the class about your given topic. Your presentation should be 2-5 minutes in length and should answer the questions provided below.

Everyone in your group needs to present.

## THE MYTH OF SISYPHUS BY ALBERT CAMUS

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Albert Camus wrote about this after-war feeling of disorientation and related it to a Greek myth. Sisyphus is remembered more for his punishment in the underworld than for what he did in his life. According to the Greek myth, Sisyphus is condemned to roll a rock up to the top of a mountain, only to have the rock roll back down to the bottom every time he reaches the top. Then he does it all again. The gods figured that an eternity of futile labor is a terrible punishment. To Camus, this myth related heavily to everyday life, and he saw Sisyphus as an "absurd" hero, with a pointless existence.

"If the world were clear, art would not exist." —*Albert Camus*

"I'm filled with a desire for clarity and meaning within a world and condition that offers neither." —*Albert Camus*

### ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR GROUP

1. Why would this myth have represented the sentiments during the time period after the World Wars in Europe? Had they just pushed a metaphorical rock up a hill? Twice?
2. Would you describe pushing a rock up a hill an appropriate metaphor for your life right now? Why or why not? How do the two Camus quotations depict how art can be used during a time of uncertainty? Or even during a time when everything feels certain?
3. How will you demonstrate the myth of sisyphus to the class? How does it apply to the background of Theatre of the Absurd?