

## ***Slaughterhouse-five* “Image of Life” Project:**

*“There isn’t any particular relationship between all the messages, except that the author has chosen them carefully, so that, when seen all at once, they produce an **image of life** that is **beautiful** and **surprising** and **deep**. There is no beginning, no middle, no end, no suspense, no moral, no causes, no effects. What we love in our books are the **depths of marvelous moments all at one time**.”*  
(*Slaughterhouse-five*, 403-4)

If you skipped it, carefully read the epigraph quotation above. This open-ended and creative project is for you to respond to this deceptively simple question: **What is the “image of life” that Vonnegut presents in *Slaughterhouse-five*?**

You’re going to present to a **group of eight** students your analysis of this question and show “**all at one time**” how Vonnegut creates and demonstrates a unique vision of life, an eccentric worldview through his fictional world.

Like a good thesis, you’ll want to include:

1. **Observations:** this is where you have evidence that you definitely read the entire book and understand it fully. Sparknotes ain’t going to cut it, buttercup.
2. **Analysis:** you make bold claims that we can argue against, you have opinions and evidence to back it up.
3. **Significance:** you explain why this matters and what it connects or leads to. You could include personal or real-world applications to the novel for this portion.

Practically speaking, this might look like: a collage, a scrapbook, an original work of art, a persuasive essay, a series of diary entries, a literary detective’s report, a poster, PowerPoint, a Prezi presentation, a game for your group to play, etc. Please don’t be limited by my boring suggestions, come up with your own and have fun with this.

This is an overarching project that would ideally be created as you read the novel, not crammed the morning before it’s due; therefore, I’d strongly recommend you begin work on it early and add to it as you read the novel.

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**Due date:** The penultimate literature day (M-W-F) of the novel, the literature day before the essay.

Present to a **group of eight** for **five minutes** each.