

What does it mean to live deliberately in 2021?



American Literature: First Semester Final Speech (or Screencast)

What are our objectives?

- To investigate how thematic topics we have studied in American Literature inform your personal experiences and your view of the world around you
- To develop and deliver a compelling, professional formal speech that responds to the following question: **What does it mean to live deliberately in 2021?**

How do we strengthen our presentation skills?

You've actually been preparing all semester, and you're ready now. Take a look:

- One-Minute Speech #1: "Tour of a Good Place"
 - Goals: Breaking the ice / building culture
- One-Minute Speech #2: "Scars"
 - Goals: Creating an attention-grabbing opening / speaking comfortably to a group
- One-Minute Speech #3: "I Am Afraid of..."
 - Goals: Making a claim / outlining specific support
- One-Minute Speech #4: "My Transcendental Experiment"
 - Goals: Using slides effectively / practicing skills from first three speeches
- FINAL EXAM SPEECH OR SCREENCAST
 - Goals: Synthesizing and building on all speech skills addressed / synthesizing not only the Transcendental unit (Emerson, Thoreau, and your book clubs) but all of first semester under the concept of "living deliberately"

How do we prepare the content of the final speech?

Start **brainstorming** by considering this semester's topics (look through reading journals, in-class activities, and fishbowl discussions):

How do we, as individuals and as a culture, define "living deliberately"?

Are we living deliberately?

How should we go about living deliberately?

- Personal essay exercises and drafts: What did you come to understand differently or better about yourself? How does this connect to living deliberately?
- Independent reading book: What was the turning point, and what was the journey to that turning point? How does this connect to living deliberately?
- Gothic stories and *The Village*: How do we cope with fear? With loss? How do these dark struggles relate to living deliberately?
- Transcendentalism: Self-reliance, heading into the woods, human nature-mother nature, civil disobedience--how do these ideas relate to living deliberately?
- Book club text: *Into the Wild*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Midnight Library*, *Where the Crawdads Sings*--what do these teach us about living deliberately?

Choose your method of delivery:

Option #1: **Live speech** to the class, **either by yourself or with one partner**

Option #2: Recorded **screencast** to show class, **either by yourself or with partner**

Outline your speech so that it has the following components (you'll have an outline template):

- An attention-grabbing, tone-setting opening
- A clear claim (thesis)
- Two or three main supporting points
- Two or three pieces of specific evidence for each main point:
 - **At least one piece of evidence must be from your book club book.**
 - **At least one piece of evidence must be from the American Gothic unit.**
 - **At least one piece of evidence must be from the personal narrative unit.**
- Thoughtful exploration of your evidence and explanation of your points
- Your heart and mind (why does this matter to *you*)?
- Connections to your audience (why should this matter to all of us?)

Create visuals that supplement your speaking.

- Use Google slides, images (your own and/or stock), video, and if you're doing a screencast, include background music.
- Remember that slides are for images and for emphasis, not for bullet-pointing everything you're saying.

Practice your speech, using your voice as a tool; **time** yourself to stay within 3-4 minutes.

- Vocal inflection and clarity are huge both in presenting live with a mask and in creating a screencast. So practice before you record / deliver.
- Your speech also needs to line up with your slides.

Record your screencast.

- My recommended method is Screencastify. It is a Google Chrome add-on, and you can access a number of self-help videos. It also uploads to your Google Drive easily.
- Your screencast should be 3-4 minutes long.

OR

Rehearse until you're comfortable delivering your speech live. You can use a notecard or two, but remember that you're not reading a speech; you're delivering a presentation. **If you present with a partner, you and your partner will receive the same grade.**

What should the final speech/screencast look like?

Our rubric on the next page offers a clear vision of what each component of this speech or screencast should look like. Please look at the rubric carefully and consider how to use this criteria to express your own heart, passion, voice, and conviction.

Your speech or screencast will be shared on either **Monday, Dec 13th** or on the **day of the final (Wednesday, December 15)**. **Watching others' speeches and screencasts is part of your final exam grade, so you must be present in class.**

3rd hour final: Wednesday, December 15 from 9:30 to 11:00 am

The final speech or screencast IS your first semester final exam. As you watch others' screencasts, you will jot down thoughts on a **note-catcher** that will also be part of your final exam grade. There is no additional test or essay. :)

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!

Live the life you've imagined."

- Henry David Thoreau

Criteria	D-F (69 & below)	C (70-79)	B (80-89)	A (90-99)	Feedback
Verbal Cues The speaker uses a strong voice, demonstrating enthusiasm for the speech topic. The speaker also enhances meaning through his/her enunciation, inflection, cadence, and volume. The speaker's diction reflects the speech's tone.					
Non-Verbal Cues The speaker maintains consistent eye contact with the audience. The speaker also demonstrates professional body language, such as posture, movement, and gestures.					
Preparation The speaker stays within the time limit (no shorter than 3 minutes, no longer than 4 minutes with a 10 second grace period). The speaker has clearly practiced the speech and either doesn't use notes at all or only uses them minimally.					
Content The speech has an attention-grabbing opening, logical organization, and a meaningful closing. The speech offers a clear message to the audience. All ideas are well-supported with specific examples, and all examples are thoughtfully explained. The speaker establishes compelling connections between the topic and us.					
Media The media (visuals, art, audio, technology) is woven seamlessly into the content. The media is used minimally, never taking over the presentation but simply accenting important points.					

Overall Grade: _____ / 100