

Presentation: Specification and Suggested Topics

Assignment

Every student registered for **B.Eng.631**, **M.EP.02b**, **M.EP.05b**, **M.EP.05d**, or **M.Kom.05** is expected to prepare and deliver a five-minute presentation of a verse passage ten to 17 lines in length. The presentation may be delivered live in class using PDF slides or an online edition, or alternatively played back in class as a prerecorded video. In your presentation you may choose whether to focus more on the excerpt's literary message, its poetic or metrical form, its cultural significance, or textual and translation challenges — any aspect of it you consider worth drawing attention to, with the one basic requirement that you must at least recite your excerpt in Old English. Depending on your chosen topic, you will likely have to consult scholarship on the topic to help you understand the material, and you should acknowledge such scholarship as you use it. Your presentation is not part of the course assessment, but you are encouraged to present on a passage you expect to discuss in your term paper. You can also use the presentation as a way of exploring your paper topic, asking your fellow students for input and crowdsourcing part of the process of finding an angle on your chosen material.

Topic

You may choose an excerpt from any Old English poem or rhythmic prose composition with the exception, first, of any excerpt set as translation homework, and second, *Cædmon's Hymn* or *The Dream of the Rood*, as most of you have already seen one or both of these texts analyzed in detail in a previous class. If you have difficulty coming up with a passage, you may choose one from the overleaf list on a first-come, first-served basis, and the same holds true of the speaking slots: please claim your passage and submit a few preferred time slots by email. As soon as a slot and passage are claimed, I will update the overleaf schedule to reflect it (in the **Stud.IP** copy of this document only).

Delivery

The test of a successful presentation is whether your audience comes away feeling they have learned something new. Barriers to this intended result extend beyond content to include such facets as poor enunciation, limited intonation, and lack of enthusiasm. In other words, plan and deliver your presentation in such a way that you can be clearly understood while also persuading your audience by every means at your disposal that your presentation is worth paying attention to.

Example Passages

- *Aldhelm* (17 ll.; requires a knowledge of Latin)
- *The Battle of Brunanburi* 1–17a
- *The Battle of Finnsburi* 1–12
- *The Battle of Maldon* 255–264
- *The Capture of the Five Boroughs* (13 ll.)
- *Beowulf* 102–114
- *Beowulf* 325–339
- *Beowulf* 405–418
- *Christ B* 850–863
- Exeter Book *Riddle* 50 (10 ll.)
- Exeter Book *Riddle* (79 and) 80 (11 ll.)
- *Exodus* 162–176
- *Exodus* 411–424
- *The Gloria I* 1–15
- *The Kentish Hymn* 1–14
- *Maxims II* 1–15
- *Metres of Boethius*: proem/verse preface (10 ll.)
- *Metres of Boethius*: metre 14 (11 ll.)
- *Metrical Charm 5: For Loss of Cattle* (16 ll.)
- *Metrical Preface to the Pastoral Care* (16 ll.)
- Paris Psalter: *Psalm 52* 1–14
- *Psalm 50* 1–12
- *Thureth* (11 ll.)
- *Waldere B* 1–11

Schedule

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|--------|---------|-------|
| 20 Nov | | |
| 20 Nov | | |
| 27 Nov | | |
| 27 Nov | | |
| 4 Dec | | |
| 4 Dec | | |
| 11 Dec | | |
| 11 Dec | | |
| 18 Dec | | |
| 18 Dec | | |
| 8 Jan | | |
| 8 Jan | | |
| 15 Jan | | |
| 15 Jan | | |
| 22 Jan | | |
| 22 Jan | | |
| 29 Jan | | |
| 29 Jan | | |