

Name

### **La Négritude – la Recherche Rapide**

According to Mme Diane “Marie-Thérèse” Tinucci, “Literature is a response to and a reflection of the environment in which it was created. As such, literature is deliberately engineered to evoke a response from its readers.” -D. Tinucci, July, 2000

We are embarking on a great study of a genre of francophone work known as “la négritude”. During this study, we will see that the poems La prière d’un petit enfant nègre and Le Hoquet and the story of Rue Cases-nègres, didn’t exist in a void but were the products and reflections of the history, culture and current times of the Caribbean. Through quick research and presentation of these I hope that your enjoyment of the poems and film will be enhanced as you work to discover the connections.

Below you will find prompt questions for each research topic, but don’t feel limited to those questions. You and your group members will be given library time to research the information you need, and a few days later, you will be asked to make a presentation to the class of your findings. The grading guidelines on the back of this page should help you know what is important about completing this assignment in a quality manner. THIS PRESENTATION IS IN ENGLISH.

#### **Topic One: Timeline of Slavery & its abolition in the Caribbean**

How did slavery begin in the Caribbean? Who started it and why? What effects did it have on the people, culture, and economy of the Caribbean? Who abolished it and why? What effects did it have on the people, culture, and economy of the Caribbean? Does slavery still exist in this region? What was the “code noir” and what were the results?

#### **Topic Two: Les griots (storytellers)**

What is a griot? What is the main purpose of a griot? Where can griots be found? Why would it be important, especially in the Caribbean “slave” culture, to maintain the custom of griots? Are there any griots that exist today? Why?

#### **Topic Three: The Caribbean & the Antilles**

Where is the Caribbean? What countries “make up” the Caribbean? the Antilles? What are the important products produced in these countries? What kind of history do these countries have, in particular, how were their relationships with Europe? How did the natural resources, geographical location, history and culture contribute to slavery?

#### **Topic Four: La Négritude**

What is “la négritude”? Who is considered the “father” of this genre? Who is Joseph Zobel? What are his “credentials”, his background? Who encouraged Zobel’s first novel? What was the title and what was the theme? When was the novel published? Who made a movie out of the novel Rue cases-nègres and why? Who are Aimé Césaire and Léopold Senghor and what do we know about their life and works?

#### **Topic Five: Racisme, métissage (racism & bi-racialism)**

What are the meanings of métis, métissage, mulâtre? Where does the word “mulâtre” come from? Where does the term “béké” come from? What other countries or ethnicities deal with métis? Does le métissage seem to be considered bad or problematic? Give examples to explain your response.

After all these group reports, a careful reading of the poems, and viewing/discussion of the film we will generate a huge mental Venn diagram looking for connections between these five topics in hopes of understanding authors intent in offering us these works.

# Négritude Rapid Research Criteria -50 points

Each group member will receive the same score. This is a CULTURAL assessment.

## **Presentation Criteria**

**I. Comprehension - 15 points** How well did you understand the question and its implications? Have you fully addressed the topic without going overboard on superfluous details? Have you developed your thoughts around the central idea which is focused and clearly stated? Have you shared quality information with your audience in the appropriate amount that ALL revolves around your centrally focused main idea? Have you shared enough information to just scratch the surface or have you delved into the topic for deeper thoughts?

**II. Comprehensibility - 10 points** How easy is it to understand you? How much “interpreting” and “guess work” is involved on the part of your audience to understand what you are saying? Is your vocabulary so technical that even you aren’t sure what you’re saying? Would your listeners need dictionaries or long vocabulary lists in front of them to understand you? Is your presentation of information logical and easy to follow? Do you have good transition of thought and concept? Are you spewing out information or are you genuinely talking with the audience? Is your presentation engaging and interesting or monotone and less than interesting? Are you motivating your audience to understand and learn what you are saying?

**III. Cultural Awareness - 10 points** Does your language show you understand how culture influences the way you say things? Are you accurate in your portrayal of history and other facts? Do you relate events and happenings in cause and effect when necessary?

**IV. Works Cited - 5 points** Have you provided an accurate works cited page in correct format? Do you have at least 3 sources which you used? How many of your sources are in French and how many in English?

**V. Presentation - 10 points** Do you have at least one source of media other than speaking / writing to help your audience better understand your topic? Does it significantly enhance the presentation or is it just a “created media” to fulfill this requirement? You should jot down in this space your rationale for how your choice of media truly enhances your project. Are you spewing out information or are you genuinely talking with the audience? Is your presentation engaging and interesting or monotone and less than interesting? Are you motivating your audience to understand and learn what you are saying? Is this a group effort? Is everyone contributing equally in ALL parts of the project, from research to writing to visuals to presenting? Is everyone in the group an “expert” on your entire topic, able to answer any question about the information you have presented?

## La Négritude – Rapid Research Timeline

Day one – Thursday, February 16 – in computer lab for research

Day two – Friday, February 17 – in class (short day) – time to work (5<sup>th</sup> hour)

Day three – Tuesday, February 21 – in computer lab for finishing touches

Day four – Wednesday, February 22 – group presentations