Great Gatsby Group Presentation

* You and your group members will discuss one of the following questions concerning *The Great Gatsby* and then present your answers in a creative manner.
* You will organize your presentation by eliciting comments based on illustrations from the novel and then probe for parallel examples from history, current events, other literature, and personal experiences and observations.
* Each member of your group is to prepare an individual answer to one of the questions although you will all be responsible for all of them. The questions are to be typed with the answer and the member’s name on the paper.
* Submit an outline of your presentation: list all members’ names and enumerate their contribution(s). Choose a group leader and identify on this outline. All group member must sign the outline verifying their participation.

You grade will be determined by

* Creativity/originality
* Cooperation/participation
* Comprehensive coverage of content
  + Address all parts of the question
  + Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter
  + Provides accurate, useful, and specific examples, quotes
  + -from the novel
  + -from current events
  + -from history
  + -from personal observation

**QUESTION 1**: How do Tom and Daisy represent the morality of the established rich class? How is Gatsby’s use of money different from that of Tom Buchanan? Trace the symbolism of money throughout the novel. How does the symbol of money relate to love?

**QUESTION 2:** What is the relationship between Tom and Myrtle? Do they love each other? Why or why not? Do Daisy and Tom love each other? How about Daisy and Gatsby? Why does Daisy decide to stay with Tom? Why does Nick break up with Jordan? What might Fitzgerald be saying about love?

**QUESTION 3**: How is the “American Dream” (that by hard work, any man can achieve success) corrupted in the novel? Be sure to include the many characters in the novel who pursue the dream. Is Fitzgerald’s interpretation correct? Is this novel the ultimate expression of the American Dream?

**QUESTION 4**: Was Gatsby’s death foreshadowed? Are we prepared for it? Who really killed Gatsby? Why does Fitzgerald have Gatsby die in the pool? Why is the description of his death so mild and clean compared with Myrtle’s?

**QUESTION 5**: Throughout the novel, Fitzgerald suggests that most people suffer from a denial of reality. Few really see “truth.” Who is deceived in the novel? Does Gatsby have a clear picture of Daisy? Suppose Gatsby realized that Daisy was not the woman he had enshrined in his memory all those years. How would the novel be different? Nick describes Daisy and Tom as “the careless people who smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together and let other people clean up the mess they made.” Is this a fair summary of Daisy?

**QUESTION 6**: What is Fitzgerald really condemning in this novel? What is the significance of the last line of the novel? Why does the “I” of the first page become the “we” of the last page? Is Fitzgerald criticizing individuals or a system? How does green permeate the novel?

**QUESTION 7**: The various settings are symbolically used to present a variety of social class and texture. How are the setting used in the novel? Discuss how the homes of Gatsby, Nick, the Buchanans, and Myrtle Wilson (both above the garage and apartment in New York) reflect the personalities of their owners or renters. Are Fitzgerald’s observations about the importance of where a person lives accurate?

**QUESTION 8**: Is Gatsby a character who speaks to any culture or is he an icon, a relic of values long since abandoned? Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
Gatsby himself remains a vague, shadowy figure and this weakens the novel. What is such a romantic hero doing in such a realistic book? Is he the hero of the novel or is Nick?

**QUESTION 9**: According to this definition of a classic, is *The Great Gatsby* a classic?  
“A classic is a work of art so universal in appeal that it has transcended the boundaries of time and place; it has survived the ‘tests of time.’”