

Death of a Salesman

Project Options

English 3

Due Date: _____

Choose one of the following prompts to examine Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* as a final project. These activities are meant to assess your knowledge of the play as a whole and provide an alternate assessment, in lieu of a final essay. You will be graded on content accuracy, creativity, neatness, and overall effort towards your final piece. Any project that is late on the day it is due will result in a 15 point deduction. It will be 5 additional points off from any day after the due date.

1. Soundtrack- The play deals in large part with music that we as readers of drama cannot hear. Compile a playlist of various songs on a CD and hand in the accompanying playlist with a short explanation of why you chose that particular song to represent certain themes, main ideas, or important parts of the play. Please include your song title, artist, explanation of the song, how it relates to a particular part in the play. You must have a minimum of 10 songs for this project.
2. Blog Writing- Living during the Post War era, Willy is unable to utilize the advantages of technology. If Willy had these outlets for his emotions, would his final outcome have changed? Create a blog and write as Willy Loman using the traditional conventions of blog writers. Focus intently on his emotions and actions that occur within the play. Make sure to focus on the final scenes of the play. What was Willy going through? How does he struggle through his decisions? Is he aware of the things he is doing? You should complete at least 5 blog entries, consider images as well.
3. Letter Writing- Write a letter from the viewpoint of Happy to his therapist. His letter should include his opinion of women, his mother, his father, and his relationship with Biff. How does Happy face reality? In what ways could Happy receive support from a therapist? This should be at least two pages typed.
4. Short Essay- What is a salesman in today's society? Try to define this role by interviewing two salesmen. Summarize your findings in a short paper (2 pages, typed, double-spaced, size 12 font) and be sure to include your definition of a salesman.
5. Artwork- Miller's work truly lends itself to visual imagery. Take an element from the play, whether it is a repeated image, such as the garden, or one of Willy's daydreams, and create a work of art depicting or representing this image. You may create any work of art, but it must be bigger than a sheet of paper. It needs to be a physical, original piece of art.
6. Scene Recreation- One of the most vital moments of Biff's young life occurs at Ebbet's field. Recreate the football game. Give a play by play of the entire game. Which team won? How did Biff perform? What sort of crowd was there? What was the atmosphere? How did Biff's performance here epitomize the way that Willy sees his son as a Greek god bathed in the "golden light"?