

Class Performance Assignment
Money and the Arts

Kill Money

Kill money, put money out of existence.
It is a perverted instinct, a hidden thought
which rots the brain, the blood, the bones, the stones, the soul.

Make up your mind about it:
that society must establish itself upon a different principle
from the one we've got now.

We must have the courage of mutual trust.
We must have the modesty of simple living.
And the individual must have his house, food and fire all free
like a bird.

D. H. Lawrence

In this assignment students will work in teams to interpret “money” as a metaphor in an artistic work. As always, everyone is on their honor to claim credit for the exercise only if they participated in out of class preparation in a substantial way.

The assignment has three parts.

1. Each group must choose a work of art in which money is used as a metaphor. I recommend that groups exchange ideas by email and then meet to make their selection. The work of art may be a story, a song, a movie or part of a movie, a play or part of a play, or an example of graphic art. (I am tired of hearing Pink Floyd do “Money” so please do not choose it.)
2. Each group will present its chosen work to the class on November 16. Groups may perform their work or present a performance of the work—they may play a recording of a song, play a section of a video, read a poem, or act out a section of a play. Presentations will be limited to ten minutes each. Two years ago, one group provided an excellent reading from “Death of a Salesman.”

Groups should make their chosen work accessible to the class by providing each class member with a copy of the text. This is especially important if you choose a recorded song since sung lyrics are often hard to make out. I will be happy to handle the photocopying if you provide me with an original by 3:00pm on November 15.

3. After each presentation, the group will provide the class with its own interpretation of the work in which they explain how money is used as a metaphor in the work.

Groups:

- One: Conner, Olga, Kellie, Lindsey, Dan
Two: Emmanuel, Alex, Lotte, Maribeth, Cassie
Three: Stephen, Ann, Vivek, Sean
Four: Doug, Tim, Avery, Chris, Meghan