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To: RomanticGender@listproc.sjsu.edu
Subject: Oral Presentation Questions

Hello Class,

Here are my questions:

1. Neighbors notes that Smith's personal life fostered an "empathy with the sufferings of the politically oppressed," and this empathy is evident in her poem the *The Emigrants*, and discussing Wordsworth's poem *Descriptive Sketches*, the reader is made aware that Wordsworth was overtly engaged with abstract ideas and how the imagination "anthropomorphizes" the figures that make up the landscape of his walking tour, which leads me to ask the following: if one were unaware of the gender of the author of these poems, would it be highly problematic to determine if the writing was masculine or feminine?
2. Neighbors concludes that Smith's "interrogation of the Romantic privileging of the solitary" (7) shows that "interaction seems to be the remedy for 'tranquil seclusion...vainly sought'" (I.65) (7), and this leads to the following question: is this somewhat of an indictment against poets who are overly concerned with the interior "real" of the mind, insofar as what the imaginative mind projects to be real?
3. Because of the sublimity (i.e., the frustrated landscapes of both Smith and Wordsworth) of nature, it seems that it is inevitable that Wordsworth ends his solitary journey at a point where it "fails to inspire hope for future reform," (7) leading me to seriously consider whether or not less "anthropomorphizing" and more empathy with the peopled landscape would noticeably change the end results of Wordsworth walking journey. Do you agree that Wordsworth's imaginative state, his abstractions, distracted him from the outcome he might have desired coming out of his solitary journey?