Elements of Book Talks

I. Handout—as the syllabus indicates, you should prepare a handout of your Book Talk for your classmates and me—you need 31 copies; Book Talks are scored on the written handout and on the oral presentation

II. Present the Novel

• Your entire presentation should not exceed 10 minutes so choose wisely what you want to convey about the book, highlighting what will “sell” it to your peers
• You need to select three quotes that are representative of the book and read these (on your handout you’ll also need to comment on or explain the significance of the three quotes)
• “Talk” this section, considering how you can best “sell” the book to your peers or to others who haven’t read the book
• A good point to consider when you are giving oral presentations, it’s better not to “read to” your audience; so be conversational as you present

III. Give author information/biography

• As you include this section in your handout, be sure to cite sources for your information wherever and whenever you have information from outside sources; For photos or images, include the source immediately below the image
• When you talk about an author (or someone you don’t know personally), you use the author’s last name
• Once again, be conversational as you present; don’t read to us
• If the author information is clear on the handout, you can make this section brief to allow more time to read excerpts from the book

IV. Read a favorite excerpt or key passage

• Practice reading the part in advance, so you can read well and clearly convey the meaning of the passage(s)
• Select the part(s) that will best “sell” the book
• Provide a brief context for what you’re reading

V. (For those who are planning on teaching)
• How might you use this book in a classroom? Include some ideas for presenting the book. For what age level is the book most appropriate? Why should teens read this book?

(For those not planning on teaching)

• Include bibliographic resources on the writer’s style, craft, “endurability,” related topics to the author and/or the author’s writings

For either group

• Why should this book be read?

VI. For Everyone – for the Written Portion of your Book Talk

Analyze the Text Complexity of your book. Please follow the suggestions/information given in the accompanying handout.