**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**American Studies English**

***Into the Wild***

**Student-Led Discussion**

**A Student-Led Discussion (SLD) is a formal, academic discussion that is led by students. In a SLD, participants seek deeper understanding of complex ideas in the text through thoughtful dialogue. Senior and college level courses seek to glean deeper understanding largely through Student-Led Discussions**

1. To add dimension to your view of Chris McCandless, read the article entitled, “The Cult of Chris McCandless”. Answer the following questions:
   * 1. What is the author’s main argument?
     2. Do you agree? Why or why not?

1. In preparation for your SLD, please create six discussion questions with a partner on a separate sheet of paper. Your questions may reflect the follow topics:

* Krakauer’s role as the biographer.
* Krakauer’s prose-journalism writing style.
* Chris’s identity and actions throughout the course of the text.
* Connections to Transcendentalism and Thoreau/Emerson.
* The locations that Chris travels to.
* Chris’s relationships with different people.
* Specific DQs that bear strong connections to developing themes in the text.
* Reaction to *Iconoclasts* documentary.
* Reaction to “The Cult of Chris McCandless”.

Please have your copies of *Into the Wild* and “The Cult of Chris McCandless” on your desk during the discussion. You should refer to the text and your study guides/notes for textual evidence to support your responses. Your goal is to understand the ideas and values reflected in the text.

Student-Led Discussion Rubric: Quiz Grade

**A. Student’s performance is excellent and demonstrates outstanding skills in the following areas:**

* **Conduct**: Student brings all necessary materials; he or she assumes and maintains a formal posture throughout the discussions.
* **Listening Skills:** Studentdoes not interrupt others; he or she responds to the comments of other group members so that the topics of the discussion are connected; he or she tries to get every group member involved in the discussion. Student avoids the temptation to dominate the discussion.
* **Public Speaking Skills:** Student consistently uses formal language.
* **Reasoning Skills:** Student shows excellent understanding of the book andavoids inaccuracies by consistently using text evidence to support his or her ideas. Additionally, the student varies his or her responses (asks questions, agrees, disagrees, supports someone else’s idea, offers a new idea) and takes risks.

**B. Student’s performance is very good and demonstrates above average skills in the following areas:**

* **Conduct**: Student brings all necessary materials to the discussion; he or she sits up straight, and he or she doesn’t fidget. Occasionally, the student’s composure is broken.
* **Listening Skills:** The studentaccidentally interrupts others occasionally, but he or she immediately regulates his or her behavior. The student responds well to the comments of other group members, and he or she asks questions or supports the ideas of others in an attempt to get everyone involved in the discussion. At times, the student may lapse and dominate the discussion.
* **Speaking Skills:** The student uses formal language with occasional lapses into slang. The student uses the work “like” inappropriately, and it becomes distracting to his or her listeners.
* **Reasoning Skills:** The studentshows very good understanding of the book because he or she uses text evidence often enough to avoid inaccuracies and to support his or her ideas. To improve, the student should use text more often, and he or she should try to vary his or her responses more and take some risks so that he or she can improve his or her understanding of the novel.

**C. Student’s performance is good and demonstrates average skills in the following areas:**

* **Conduct**: The Student brings all necessary materials, sits up straight, and, for the most part, maintains his composure.
* **Listening Skills:** The student interrupts his or her classmates, or he or she does not consistently pay adequate attention to the conversation; consequently, his or her comments are disconnected with the substance of the conversation. The student doesn’t try to get his or her classmates involved in the discussion.
* **Speaking Skills:** The student consistently uses informal language and may try to dominate the conversation.
* **Reasoning Skills:** The studentshows a shallow understanding of the book, and he or she does not use text evidence to support his ideas. Some of his or her statements may be inaccurate or repetition of material that has already been discussed, and he or she relies on one type of comment; the failure to take risks demonstrates incomplete preparation for the discussion.

**D. Student’s performance is below average and demonstrates limited skills in the following areas:**

* **Conduct**: The student is inattentive, and he his or her body language is informal and disinterested.
* **Listening Skills:** The student interrupts and makes irrelevant comments.
* **Speaking Skills:** The student uses informal diction or dominates the conversation or doesn’t talk at all.
* **Reasoning Skills:** The student does not demonstrate even an appropriate literal comprehension of the text. He or she does not say much more than “I agree,” and he or she may attempt to use humor to avoid serious thinking. Excessive repetition of material that has already been discussed.