

Reading What's Assigned

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZelqvXVsMc>

Narrator: You're a hard working teacher who doesn't like to teach off the cuff so you plan a discussion by assigning your students an article on...

Instructor: Abraham Lincoln! We focused last week on the change in rhetoric between Lincoln's first and second inaugural addresses. So now that we've read the Myers article arguing that Lincoln committed war crimes in 1862 and 1863, do you think that Myer's arguments were legitimate or were they simply a response to the stronger rhetoric of Lincoln?

Awkward pause.

Okay! Mary, do you think that Myers was persuasive? Alright, if you had to decide, would you agree or disagree with Myers.

Instructor: Lisa?

Lisa: I didn't read it either.

Instructor: Juan?

Juan: Gestures "no".

Instructor: Alright, Can I see a show of hands of everyone who did read the article?

Students: Nobody raises hand.

Instructor: Alright!!! So, the assignment—both in the syllabus and announced in class—was to read the eight page Myers article and nobody did, correct?

Narrator: Of course they didn't. The instructor is stalling now. Sometimes things don't go exactly as planned. So, what do you do now?