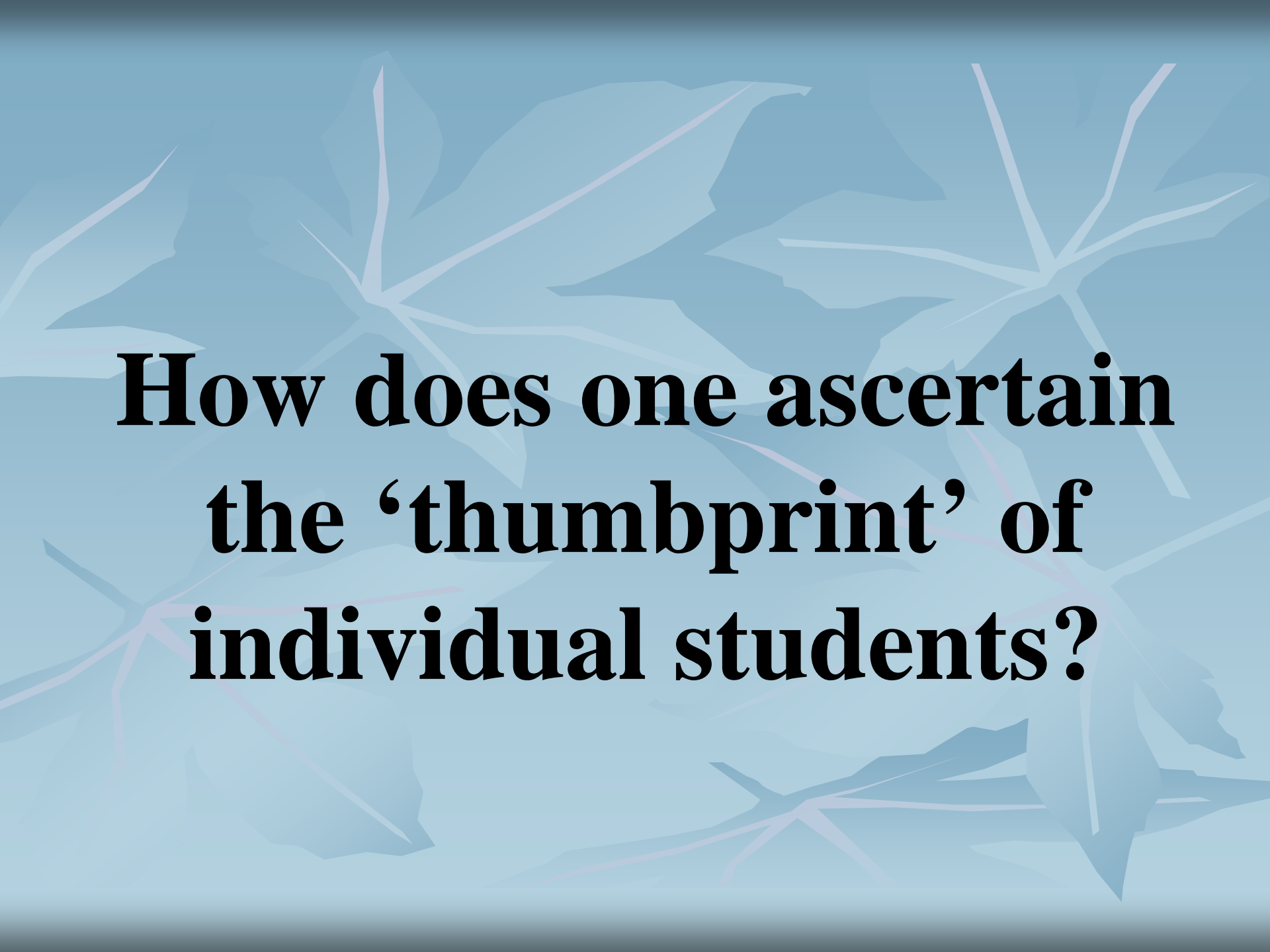


SELF EXPRESSION  
IS A THUMBPRINT  
- DIFFERENT FOR  
EACH ONE



**How does one ascertain  
the ‘thumbprint’ of  
individual students?**

# Talk about a teaching tool

- You have used
- You have thought about using
- You are planning to use

# **The Annual Seminar organized by the English Department**

- **The Need**
- **The Problem**
- **The Tactic**

# **The Main Objectives:**

- **to provide students a forum for discussion**
- **to develop skills of critical inquiry and independent research**
- **to encourage collaborative work**
- **to help students manage time effectively**
- **to develop presentation skills**

# The Process:

- Selecting an overarching theme
- This year's theme - *THE RELEVANCE OF THE EPICS IN MODERN TIMES*
- Groups of 3 or 4 students select areas of interest
- Some of this year's topics

*The Apple of Discord from The Iliad*

*The Story of Karna from The Mahabharata*

# The Schedule:

## This year's deadlines:

- **AUGUST 6** Choose the story and give reasons for the choice.
- **SEPTEMBER 10** Write out the story in your own words structured in the way you will finally present it.
- **OCTOBER 22** First reading of the story in class after several practices. You could bring in props.
- **NOVEMBER 26** Final rehearsal. You must be able to take questions from the class
- **DECEMBER 15 & DECEMBER 16 –**

***FINAL PRESENTATION***

# The Paper

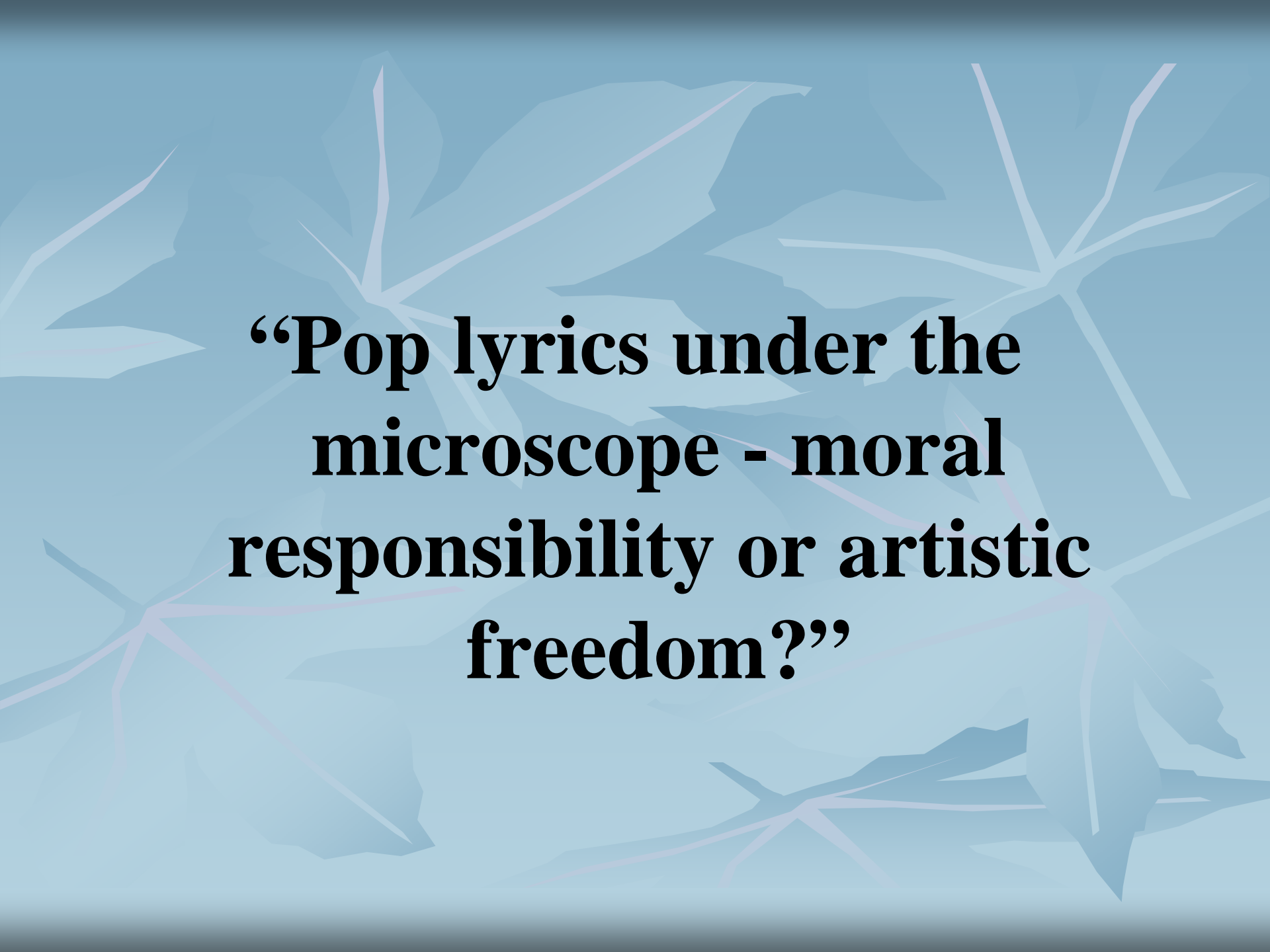
- **Groups must explore and question the main idea**
- **Decide their position**
- **Check for any controversy or debate arising from the issue.**
- **The research from primary or secondary sources or both must then be analysed and interpreted.**
- **The paper must be organized and factual with sources of information duly acknowledged.**

# Key strategies:

- **Practice**
- **Speak! Don't sit and stew!**
- **Do not take comments personally**
- **Be aware of the other classmates**
- **Make your point politely**



# **Teacher Learning!**



**“Pop lyrics under the  
microscope - moral  
responsibility or artistic  
freedom?”**

**People say that I'm a bad influence**

**I say the world's already fucked, I'm just addin to it**

**They say I'm suicidal, teenagers' newest idol**

**{c'mon!}**

**C'mon do as I do, go ahead get mad and do it**

**{Just pull the plug!}**

**People say that I'm a bad influence**

**I say the world's already fucked, I'm just addin to it**

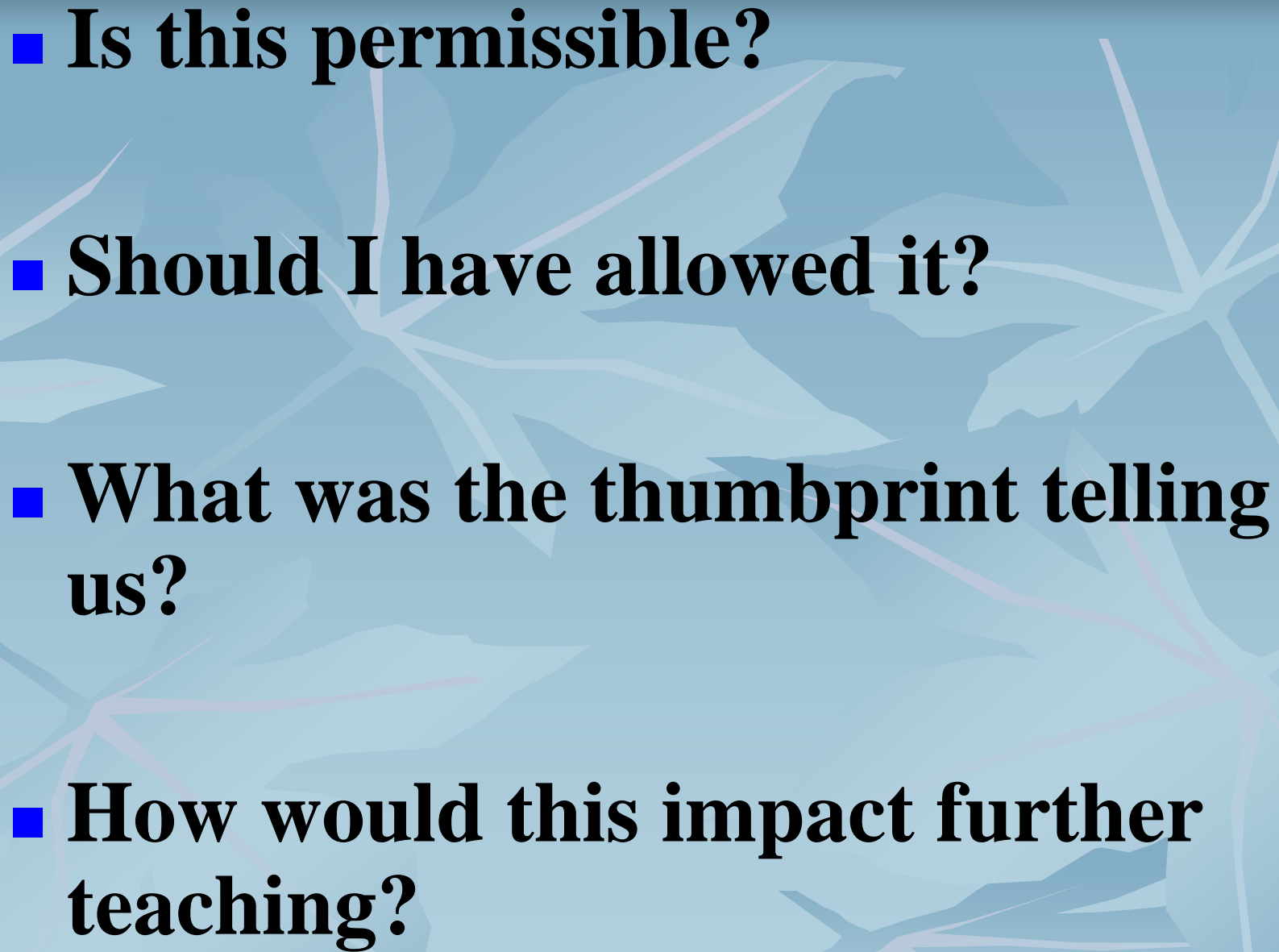
**They say I'm suicidal, teenagers' newest idol**

**{c'mon!}**

**C'mon do as I do, go ahead get mad and do it**

**{Just let it gooo!}**

**EMINEM**

- 
- **Is this permissible?**
  - **Should I have allowed it?**
  - **What was the thumbprint telling us?**
  - **How would this impact further teaching?**



**Do Indian writers of English  
fiction pander to a western  
audience?**

- **How important is it to distinguish between the book and the personal history of the author?**
- **Should you keep literary criticism objective and not get embroiled in moral issues?**



**The universality of  
Shakespeare – is it a myth?**

***SHAKESPEARE***

***SUCKS!***

# **What have I learnt from this exercise of ten years?**

**These are some of the questions I routinely ask myself:**

- **What implications do my texts or my subject area have for the way I need to teach?**
- **What particular opportunities or challenges do they present?**
- **What do I take for granted in my own thinking about this topic that students may not yet take for granted, or even be aware of?**
- **How do I communicate that the topic matters? That this discussion is serious?**
- **How can I foster group norms that encourage openness and discussion?**
- **How will what happens in my classes foster or support students' own independent learning?**

# **Takeaways from conducting a seminar**

## **One learns**

- **What each student has essentially learnt.**
- **An increased awareness of student values and attitudes**
- **An appreciation and application of their principles and the impact of these attributes on our own practice of teaching.**
- **To move beyond the haze of stereotyping**



**WHAT IS MY  
'THUMBPRINT'?**

**The annual seminar of the  
English Department is to be held on  
the 15th and 16th of this month.**

**You are all invited to come and look  
for a whole new set of thumbprints**