The Common Text Committee of the Department of English at Howard University invites Freshman English 002 students to present papers at its conference to be held November 18-19, 2009, 8:30am to 6:00pm, Armour J. Blackburn University Center.

As the conference focuses on Zora Neale Hurston and her enduring work, Their Eyes Were Watching God, students are encouraged (but are not limited) to explore the novel’s literary elements (e.g., theme, characterization, setting, plot, point of view, tone or atmosphere). Papers may also explore the impact of Hurston’s personal experience on her work, address her narrative strategies or discourses on race, gender, and class, identify social commentary or discuss image and identity in the novel.

Interested students should submit a hard copy abstract of 100-200 words to their respective ENGL 002 instructors by November 2, 2009.

Abstract must include student’s name, title of presentation, brief description of proposed paper, and email contact information.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes including time for questions and answers.

For more information, please contact Professor Patricia Elam at breathingroom@starpower.net.