Project Guideline - Oral Presentation and PowerPoint Slides

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PowerPoint Presentation:

The final presentation is a research based oral presentation. It was originally conceived as a (typical) research paper for a history class. However, after teaching online for several years it became apparent that it was more helpful for students to work on both presentation skills and research skills as well as to have an interactive and collaborative element to this course.

The presentations should be approximately between 6-8 minutes, with a firm limit of 10 minutes. (As a research paper, the requirement was 6-8 page, and that actually does convert well to a 6-8 minute presentation). The presenter should connect the presentation to the required PowerPoint slides and be comfortable with the subject matter. Because this is an oral presentation, it should not be too closely “read”, but notes that keep the presenter on topic and comfortable may be used. Do not write a research paper and just read it to the audience.

The presentation will still require a thesis statement and the presentation should use evidence and analysis to prove the thesis statement. Be specific in your topic. The topics listed are to get you started. You MUST be more specific than the topics themselves. You have great flexibility in how you develop your topic and your thesis statement, but be aware that the more general and broad your presentation the less effective it is.

PowerPoint presentation should include approximately 7-10 slides. You also have great latitude here, as well. Some presentations may be very visual and need 20 or more slides to make their point. Other topics may lend themselves to more abstract discussions that have fewer visual elements and only require 7 slides. Make sure the slides are not too wordy or busy. The most effective PowerPoint slides are succinct, concise and are meant to challenge and "stir" the audience to form a mental image; not to read every word that the presenter is delivering. Let me reiterate that last statement: **DO NOT JUST FILL YOUR POWERPOINT WITH SENTENCES THAT YOU READ TO THE AUDIENCE.**

Most of the slides that you create are completely up to you. However the following slides are required for every presentation: A title page, with your topic and your name; a Thesis statement slide where you state your thesis statement; a works cited page at the end with all of the sources that you have used. Contact your instructor if you still have questions about the slides or requirements.