

A.P. European History

4th Quarter Research Presentation

This is a very detailed assignment that will take a good part of the whole quarter to complete. This is an assignment that you should be working on frequently throughout the quarter and checking in with me frequently as to your progress, regardless of what we are covering in class.

Requirements

- Proposal

- Presentation of an acceptable proposal is not the beginning of the work on the research project. Rather, it marks the end of the first major stage of the research process. Before a proposal can be submitted, the student must have identified an appropriate research problem and developed realistic ways of exploring it. The student should realize that preparing the proposal is both a formal and an intellectual exercise.
- Once a general research topic has been chosen, the next step should be to find ways to limit it, give it clearer focus, and shape it into a tightly defined research problem or question. If the problem is too broad, the research is likely to remain superficial. There will simply be too much material for you to investigate. Conversely, the topic may be so narrow that not enough material exists to do it justice. You may find yourself fascinated by a particular topic but discover that there is only one article on it and that it is written in a language you do not read. It is then wise to choose another topic.
- Here are some examples of topics that were at first too broad or unfocused and were subsequently narrowed or focused by the student:

Unfocused: “The American Constitution”

Focused: “Definitions of Libel under the First Amendment to the Constitution”

Unfocused: “American Expatriate Artists”

Focused: “Three 19th-Century American Expatriate Artists and Their Critical Reception Abroad: Sargent, Whistler, Cassatt”

Unfocused: “The Falklands War and Its Impact on the World”

Focused: “The Falklands War and Its Impact on the British General Elections of 1983”

- Your topic needs to be approved by me by the set date with a 1/2-page typed summary of your topic, including why you want to research this topic and where you plan on getting your sources from.

- Annotated Bibliography

- Annotated bibliography → a list of resources that includes commentary on the relative usefulness of each resource
- Needs to be set up just like a completed Works Cited page, in MLA style, with a paragraph description under each resource
- Should speak to how the resource will connect to your topic
- Make sure you discuss the author and/or source and why they are a reputable, authoritative source
- You should have at least 5 reputable, academic sources
- Example:

Clark, Nancy L. and William H. Worger. *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid*. London: Pearson Education Limited, 2004.

This is a text that explores how apartheid came to be in South Africa, its development, and its eventual demise. This book does an excellent job in discussing political, economic, social, and international issues that led to the creation, and demise, of apartheid. Clark and Worger discuss and illustrate the origin, character, interpretation, and legacy of apartheid. These two authors are both college professors and therefore this book serves as a textbook on the subject. The point they try to make is that one has to understand how and why apartheid came into existence in South Africa to try to understand how and why its demise came about.

- Presentation

- a 20-minute oral presentation in front of the class
 - time does not include questions from the audience
- You need to generate a discussion and involve the class
 - you need to come up with at least 3 questions ahead of time to stimulate discussion during your presentation
 - connections to the greater events of the times and events today would be excellent ideas for discussion topics
- PowerPoint/Prezi presentation (or some other form of a visual presentation aid)
 - must be audience-friendly (ie. animated, easy to follow, easy to read, etc.)
 - must have visuals (maps, pictures, political cartoons, graphs, etc.)
 - must have a video component (YouTube, news clip, etc.)
 - must include a properly formatted Works Cited page
- You need to have a homework assignment for the class to complete after your presentation
 - needs to be something where students will be thinking critically about your topic and its importance
- You need to have at least one question to ask each presenter on their presentation
 - needs to be appropriate and relevant

Topics

The topic for this research paper and presentation is up to your discretion. It is very wide open and should be chosen with the intent of doing extensive research on an issue that interests you. You should stay away from biographies, though, as you will get much more out of an actual topic. I want to challenge you to pick a topic you don't know much about and want to put a lot of time and effort into finding out much more about it.

The only requirement in this area is that it has to be something that we have covered or will be covering till the end of the semester, which will include:

Module 15: World War II and the Beginning of the Cold War (1939-1968)

Module 16: Collapse of the Soviet Union and the End of the Cold War (1968– 1993)

Module 17: Modern Europe (1990 – Today)

Basically, the time period range is 1939-2000, so anything in this range is acceptable. Some of the topics we have not talked about yet in class, so you will be responsible for learning about them on your own if you choose one of those topics. Your textbook will aid you with ideas on people or events that you wish to delve deeper into.

Important Dates

- Proposal – Due: *Thursday, April 13th*
- Annotated Bibliography -- Due: *Friday, April 28th*
- Presentations begin: *Thursday, June 1st*

Rubric

I am giving you a rubric so you know exactly what I am looking for. Please adhere to it.

4th Quarter Research Presentation Rubric

Student Name: _____

Topic: _____

CONTENT – How thorough is your research? What is the lasting influence and impact of your topic in Europe? Is your research factual and accurate? How well organized is your presentation? How well do you make it understandable to the audience? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

PRESENTATION – How well do you present your topic? How prepared and organized are you? Do you have a confident presence in front of the class? Eye-contact and volume? Do you utilize the full 20 minutes? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

POWERPOINT – How organized and professional is the layout of your PowerPoint presentation? Do you have numerous and relevant visuals? Is it audience-friendly? Do you have a video component that helps the class understand your topic? Proofreading? (25 pts.)

0 10 15 20 25 _____

WORKS CITED PAGE – Do you have a correctly formatted MLA-style works cited page with at least 5 sources? (5 pts.)

0 1 2 3 4 5 _____

DISCUSSION – Were you prepared with a list of questions to spark discussion? Were you able to generate thought-provoking questions? Did your questions connect not only to the time period, but to other eras and even today? Were you able to answer the audience's questions? (10 pts.)

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

HOMEWORK – Do you have a homework assignment that requires critical thinking? Is it set up formally with a title and directions? (10 pts.)

0 2 4 6 8 10 _____

TOTAL: _____/100