

Core F | Rhetoric II | Article Presentation Assignment

The grand finale of your final year at PEP is your senior speech. The majority of quarter 3 will be devoted to the research of your speech, with the writing and memorization of your speech encompassing quarter 4. That leaves quarters 1 and 2 for the discovery phase—what in all the wide world of topics and issues are you going to discuss?

As with previous PEP research papers, the research you do and the evidence you present in regard to your speech must be of an academic nature. We will further discuss at a later date the need to balance this scholarly approach with the necessity of appealing to an audience of mostly teenagers. In the meantime, quarters 1 and 2 allow you the opportunity to explore your options—to skim the surface of topics and issues and find out what popular media is saying about a particular issue.

Since the senior speech will take up a considerable portion of your time (and your grade) in this class, it's important to choose a topic that interests you. The goal of this assignment is to help you find that topic and narrow it to an issue that will also appeal to your audience. Over the first quarter, you will present two articles to the class. If you are unsure of your topic, it may be that your articles are on completely different topics as you seek one that really resonates with you. If you are already pretty sure of your topic, it may be that your articles are on similar issues related to your topic of choice.

A secondary goal of this assignment is to practice your presentation skills, increasing your comfort level in both speech and technical presentation (PPT) through short (2 – 3 minute) summaries of articles you have read. You can save the scholarly research for quarter 3—use this time to investigate blogs, podcasts, YouTube videos, etc. to get a broad-based idea of what the general public is aware of when it comes to your topic of choice.

Expectations: This may be a sample of what's on the surface of your issue, but yours is NOT meant to be a surface-level analysis presentation. Here's what is expected:

1. Find 2 articles, videos, podcasts, etc. on your topic and read/watch/listen to them thoroughly.
2. Take notes as needed, answering questions such as:
 - What is the name of the article, its author, and its source (publication)?
 - What is the main point?
 - Does the author take a position on the issue? Do you agree or disagree?
 - Is bias evident?
 - Does it provide a point of view that may be useful to use in your speech should you choose this topic?
3. Prepare a short (3 – 6 slide) PPT to share as you present (example on Weebly)
 - Slide 1—Article #1 name and author w/links
 - Slides 2, 3—Article #1 Main points (summary on PPT, not word-for-word) & take-aways
 - Slide 4— Article #2 name and author w/links
 - Slides 5, 6 – Article #1 Main points (summary on PPT, not word-for-word) & take-aways
4. Present to class (no more than 3-4 minutes)

Due Dates for Article Presentations: Q1 – weeks 4-8

*Save your PPT as a PDF and upload to Dropbox BEFORE your assigned presentation day!!
PRACTICE your delivery—make eye contact, use gestures, pause to breathe, etc.*