

In-Class Presentation (10%)
HIST 1200/1201, Fall 2017

Directions:

1. Select a current event, development, or topic related to the Trump presidency that is of interest of you. Then find a *primary source* from the past 1-2 weeks (legislative bill, speech, tweet, memo, press conference, photograph, etc.) related to that topic. This does not have to be produced by President Trump himself, but should be directly related to the administration. Do not use a newspaper article or other secondary source that is a “summary of events.”
2. Fill out the “Primary Source Worksheet” for this source to familiarize yourself with it.
3. Brainstorm potential historical questions that this source or topic raises.
4. Choose one or two of these questions and do some research on it in order to provide historical context for the current event and source.
5. Prepare a presentation for the rest of the class on your source, the topic, and most importantly: some dimension of its history. **This presentation must be 5-7 minutes in length.**
6. Email me a copy or link to the source by **12:00PM on the day of your presentation** so that I can have it pulled up on the projector screen. If you are using a slideshow, please either email it to me, bring it on a USB stick, or bring your laptop and a VGA/HDMI dongle to connect to the projector.

Advice:

- What is the basic information that someone would need who is largely unfamiliar with your source/topic? Do not assume your audience has prior knowledge about it, so be sure to include both the details (who, what, when, etc.) but also any necessary context about surrounding events or circumstances.
- Consciously decide what information the audience *doesn't* need and what you can leave out – do not try to give every shred of information about the topic in your presentation, just what's necessary.
- After you introduce your source and the modern-day topic/event, spend most of your time spelling out the *historical* dimension(s) of your topic that you've chosen to focus on.
- Remember, you don't need to give a comprehensive history of the topic. Be selective about what information you want to impart to your audience.
- Hammer home the big “take-away” that you would like to impart to your audience and structure your presentation around how best to do that.
- Outline your presentation and decide how many second you want to spend on each section.
- Take a video of one of yourself giving a presentation and listen/look for things like fidgeting, verbal crutches (“um,” “like,” “really”), the speed and volume with which you're talking, etc.
- **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. And use a timer when you do.**