English 103: Research Presentation

Purpose
Now that you have a grasp on strategies for college research it is time to demonstrate those skills in a massive research project where you will not only be practicing work on a collaborative project, but also the techniques for effective presentations. All of these skills will be an important part of your junior and senior-level, major-specific classes. This project is designed to prepare you for those tasks.

Requirements
You will have the option of working as an individual or as a group of 2, 3, or 4 people. Regardless of group size, these are the requirements for this assignment:

- You will offer a 7-10 minute presentation where you offer your research and make a claim in an argumentative thesis statement.
  - This presentation should be rehearsed ahead of time and previously written material or cue-cards are highly recommended.
  - Expectations for this presentation are high given the portion of class time devoted to it. Do not try to “wing it” – you will likely fail the class.
  - In groups, presentation time should be shared evenly among all members.
- Trifold poster which visually demonstrates your research. This is one place to be creative. Think about color scheme and/or organizational methods. Show charts, pictures, and important, attention-getting information which may be hard to share in a presentation.
- PowerPoint presentation with appropriate APA citations.
- Presentation outline with handouts with enough copies for each member of the class (19 total).
- Integration of at least 15 unique and quality sources.

Your presentations should address many, if not all of these questions:

- What is the topic you are researching? Introduce your audience to any vocabulary necessary to understand the topic.
- What are some of the issues regarding this topic (further down the funnel) Why should your audience care about such topics?
- What is your claim about the issue? Tell this early and repeat it often.
- Who would be especially interested in this issue? Does this influence your notion of “audience” for this presentation?
- Effective presentation may divide their research into different groups or clusters of information.
  - Example: Topic: Cars; Points of Discussion: Hybrids, History, Mechanics, Makes; Issues: Environment and cars, Car companies and economic crisis; Car safety, etc.
  - Whose perspectives have been especially influential in your research? Were there any especially outstanding sources?
  - What information was especially helpful or especially not useful?
  - How has your opinion about the issue changed because of your research, and why?
  - If you were to further develop this topic into a paper, what would be some effective arguments to take up? What would be the strengths and dangers of taking up such arguments?
  - Each member of the group is responsible for 5 unique sources. These must all be included in the bibliography with representation of as many as possible in your presentation.

Also…

- Keep in mind that this project is about research more than anything else. Show that research off. You are asked to include a properly formatted bibliography (one hard copy to me) with your presentation.
- Appropriate dress is an important element of presentation rhetoric; talk amongst your group about what kind of clothing is appropriate given your topic (appropriate “costume” elements may also be acceptable – see me about this option.)

University-wide Research Showcase – Wednesday, April 11th 3:00-4:30
The best two research presentations in the class will participate in the university-wide research showcase. In participating they will receive extra credit to their research presentation score and will not need to write a reflection essay. Everyone in the class will attend. (More details to follow.)

Audience
Your audience will be your instructor and classmates, who have minimal knowledge of your topic. Additionally, the university-wide Showcase will include students, faculty, and employees from across the campus with a different attention span. Consider this when developing your presentation and visual aids.

Evaluation
This in-class showcase will count for 30% of your final grade and will be scored partially on group effort as well as individual performance demonstrated in the presentation of the information itself as well as from a group-feedback form administered at the conclusion of the project.

Also note that on April 11th the class will not be meeting at its regular time but will be attending the university-wide research showcase. Our class' entrants will be presenting their research and the rest of the class will attend and write an essay on the experience. This must be completed for full-credit on this project. If you have class/practice/real life conflicts these should be worked out with me as soon as possible. The research showcase runs from 3:00-4:30.