As you’ve seen, writing a research paper is a multi-stage process. By this point in the semester, your group has completed a proposal, annotated bibliography, and an argument outline. This next stage requires your group to create a showcase presentation that describes your essay’s argument, research, and its connection to the world at large. Because your research project must address an issue concerning Chicagoland, you may want to think about how your showcase will appeal to audience members from all over Illinois.

The best showcases coordinate visual elements, oral presentation, and research. You’re encouraged to think “outside the box,” but always consider your target audience(s). Keep in mind, you want to hook your audience into listening to your spiel. What will grab and hold their attention? How can you keep them interested in your showcase? Are there ways in which your visual will draw the audience?

Your showcase should have the following elements:

- Visual presentation – tri-fold poster stand or other large poster
- Integration of research project sources and works cited
- Oral description of your project, argument, and sources

Because this is a group project, we’ll have class time dedicated to your showcase work. However, you may have to coordinate with your teammates to work on this project outside of class. Consider your group schedules and strengths when dividing up the work load.

Our in-class mini-showcase is due on Friday, 25 March. Your showcase will be evaluated by your peers. NIU’s campus-wide Showcase for Student Writing is on Wednesday, 4 April. All students will be asked to attend the showcase and class will be cancelled that day.