

1990s Presentations

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

- Choose a topic on the 1990s from the list below. If you have an idea for a topic that is not on the list please speak to me first for approval.
- Research it & prepare an 5-8-minute presentation about your topic for the class. Your presentation should be informative AND also involve some kind of discussion with the class.

REQUIREMENTS:

Length: 5-8 minutes

Handout: you need to provide the class with a handout

Bibliography

Week of May 6th – research

Monday, May 20th & Thursday, May 23rd – presentations in class

TOPICS

Sports:

Michael Jordan & the Bulls
1999 Women's Soccer World
Cup
Nancy Kerrigan & Tonya
Harding
Kerri Strug & 1996 Olympics
Mike Tyson
Magic Johnson & HIV

Politics:

Gulf War/Operation Desert
Storm

Domestic Issues:

Rodney King & LA Riots
Domestic terrorism
(Oklahoma City/Waco/
unabomber)
Columbine Shooting
OJ Simpson Trial

Science:

Dolly the sheep
Hubble telescope
Mars lander
Y2K

Culture:

E-mail
Birth of the WWW/Internet
Tamagotchi
Gardner Museum theft
'90s film
'90s youth on tv
Grunge music
Hip hop in the '90s

SOURCES:

For this project, **you MUST use at least 3 sources**

- TWO of them must originally have been in “print” form, i.e., a newspaper article, a magazine article, etc.. (Sources which were originally in print, like a magazine article, still counts as a print source.) *Databases which may be useful include SIRS, CQ Researcher, Pop Culture Universe, U.S. History in Context (GALE), Biography in Context (GALE.)*
- You also must have at least 1 primary source that you somehow work into your presentation. This primary source could be episode(s) of a show, a song, an interview, artwork, copies of comics, etc.

As always, keep track of all of your sources - you do need a bibliography as the final slide of your slideshow.

Remind me yet again, how do I access the database?

- **To access the school’s database, go to www.lsrhs.net.** Go to “Quick Links”, click on “Library.” The databases are on the right side of the Library homepage - just click on the link for “History” and it will open up the list of subject specific databases.

CONTENT: (Here are some questions to get you started):

- What is the topic? Provide some background on the topic/issue.
- Where does the topic fit in, if at all, to some of the history/events that came before it?
- What is the significance of the topic to the times/people? What does it reveal about the decade?
- How does the topic relate to/influence events that follow it?

HANDOUT:

The class needs to take notes on your presentation, but you can help them by providing them with an outline, guided questions which mirror your presentation, key terms, etc.. Your handout should be a ½-1 page long and include at least 2-3 key questions that help to summarize your topic.

- Before making the handout, figure out what you are going to say and in what order so you can be sure that the handout is easy to follow. You ideally want it to match the information and go in the same order as your presentation.
- Consider what about the topic is important (they don’t need the minutia of a person’s birthday or hometown.) What’s important to know about your topic? How does your topic reflect the needs of the people in the time?
- If you get your handout to me the day before, I will make copies of it for the class. If you would prefer to make copies for the class, make 25 copies.

Presentation Requirements

Presentations in general are nerve-wracking experiences for many people. Please read through the presentation requirements and public speaking tips, as you will be graded on both content as well as presentation.

Make a Powerpoint or Google Slides presentation. If you're working as a team, consider using Google Presentations or Prezi. This will enable you to incorporate both visuals as well as notes. (For those who hate oral presentations, it helps make you feel less on the spot as your audience will be watching the presentation for much of the time rather than staring at you! ☺)

PLEASE NOTE: In a slideshow, font size and color is key. If it is too small, the class will not be able to read it (*at a minimum, slide font should be 20+ point.*) Also, be aware that while pretty, some font or background colors are hard to see when projected on the big screen. In general, red, pink and purple are harder colors to see. Busy background pictures are not ideal when you are trying to overlay text.

Things to include in your 5-8 minutes presentation:

1. Short audio or video clips – YouTube is your friend for short clips but EDIT and find a short section that is useful to your presentation. Note the minute/sec. & cue it.
2. A primary source like a short personal account of someone who experienced the time/event.

If you choose to use audio/visual aids in your presentation they should not exceed 2-3 minutes - YOU should be talking more than your AV clips. Make sure that you know where to start your movie so as not to waste time during your presentation.

A few tips on public speaking:

1. Speak loudly and clearly - make sure the class can understand you. Be mindful of mumbling, trailing off or up-talking (making statements in the form of a question).
2. Avoid the use of fillers – um, like, you know, uh...
3. Speak slowly – know that if you talk fast naturally, be prepared for the fact that you will talk at the speed of light when you are nervous.
4. Make eye contact. DO NOT simply look at me – you are presenting to the entire class, therefore you should look at them.
5. Don't fidget. Stand (do not sit) and speak clearly to the class. Try not to sway, lean against the board, fidget with the table, desk, or chairs. Tie your hair back if you think you might be inclined to fiddle with it.
6. End the presentation in a clear way. Don't simply state, "Well, I guess that's it." It should be clear that you are done by the flow of your presentation; you shouldn't have to tell the audience that you are finished.
7. Stay within the time limits of the presentation.
8. Smile! It may seem nuts but it actually does release chemicals that keep you calm and relaxed. ☺