

# ***A Long Way Gone* Research Presentations**

Assignment: Working with a partner you will prepare a 5-6 minute presentation on one of the following topics:

- 1) Refugees (living conditions of camps, where they come from)
- 2) Child Soldiers (where and how they are being used)
- 3) Blood Diamonds
- 4) Controversy about *A Long Way Gone*
- 5) History of the Civil War in Sierra Leone
- 6) RUF
- 7) How culture and media portray violence
- 8) The effects of war on children
- 9) Lost Boys of the Sudan
- 10) Genocide in the world today
- 11) Should child soldiers face prosecution?
- 12) Omar Khadr
- 13) How are child soldiers rehabilitated?

You will need to research, prepare and deliver a presentation to the class on your topic.

Requirements:

- Take advantage of class time to collaborate with partner
- Conduct research: become the expert on your topic
- Present Findings: Share findings with class
  - Make an effective powerpoint presentation
    - Effective slides: not too much text
    - Good use of visual elements
  - Be able to answer questions
  - 5-6 Minutes
- This is a collaborative project: both people need to do the research and both people need to present

Calendar:

Prepare Presentations

A-Day: Wednesday, November 16 and Friday, November 18

B-Day: Thursday, November 17 and Monday, November 21

Give Presentations

A-Day: Tuesday, November 22 and Tuesday, November 29

B-Day: Monday, November 28 and Wednesday, November 30

Extra Credit (10 points): If you dress in business causal or business professional for your presentation.

Note: These presentations will either be given right before or right after Thanksgiving. You need to be prepared to give your presentation on your assigned date. Do not use the holiday as an excuse. Make sure you come back from the break prepared.

### Grading Rubric: 36 Points Possible

|               | Excellent (12-10.8 points)  | Good (10.5-9.5 points)   | Developing (9-0 points)   |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| Research      | <p>Topic has been thoroughly researched. Presenters demonstrate that they are well-versed in their topic.</p> <p>Includes a works cited slide with at least 4 different sources</p>   | <p>Topic has been well researched. Presenters demonstrate a good understanding of topic.</p> <p>Includes a works cited slide with at least 2 different sources</p>   | <p>Topic has been researched, but it is evident that understanding is superficial.</p>  |
| Presentation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Both people speak, and both are comfortable with material</li> <li>-Presentation makes effective use of powerpoint</li> <li>-Slides are not overloaded with text</li> <li>-Has good visual elements</li> <li>-Presenters are prepared...smooth transitions</li> <li>-Stays within time limit</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Both people speak and for the most part they are comfortable with material</li> <li>-Presentation uses powerpoint but not all slides are effective</li> <li>-Presenters are prepared most of the time</li> <li>-Stays within time limit</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One person does most of the presenting</li> <li>-Powerpoint could be used better</li> <li>-One or both presenters not well prepared</li> <li>-Ineffective transitions</li> <li>-Doesn't stay within time limit</li> </ul> |
| Collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Both partners make good use of class time to conduct research</li> <li>-Partners work well together and share the work</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-For the most part partners make good use of class time to conduct research</li> <li>-For the most part partners work well together</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Partners do not make good use of class time to conduct research</li> <li>-Partners do not demonstrate effective collaboration</li> </ul>  |

1. **Thou shalt not put War and Peace on a slide.** Too much text on a slide makes it difficult for a learner to both see and process information. The solutions are easy. Use more slides or outline only major ideas on each slide and then verbally add details. Guidelines suggest no more than six bullet points per slide, no more than six words per point.
2. **Thou shalt not use fonts smaller than 28-point.** Do you need bifocals to read slides on a huge projection screen? Why make your audience squint? Not only is that irritating, but it can cause eye fatigue, and viewers miss important information. To check your font size, print out a slide, put it on the floor at your feet. If you can read it from a standing position, then your font size should work in a typical sized classroom.
3. **Thou shalt not use busy backgrounds or ineffective colors.** Don't make your audience need sunglasses. If a background has too much going on, it competes with the information. Also, poor color choices make slides difficult to read. When broadcasting PowerPoint slides over a two-way video system, yellow is a very difficult color on the viewer's eyes. Consider using aesthetically pleasing color choices with good color contrast. And bear in mind that dark slides in a darkened room in a class after lunch may be just a little too soothing. Light fonts on a dark background are best for projection, dark fonts on a light background are best for printed slides.
4. **Thou shalt not complicate slides with too many figures and tables.** The whole purpose of showing a figure or table is lost when a learner must focus on trying to make sense of all the numeric information. Use a handout instead, or refer to a page number or a website where the information can be perused at leisure. If a large table needs to be part of a presentation, break it into chunks on several slides and focus on one aspect of it at a time.
5. **Thou shalt use animation, audio, and pictures in moderation.** While animations work well for the Cartoon Network, you don't want your audience to focus on the bombs bursting in air and flags waving. Remember, the goal is to transmit information, not lose your message in the glitz. Pictures and audio can help break up the monotony of written words, but use them to enhance your message, instead of letting them become the message.
6. **Thou shalt acknowledge all references used.** Thou shalt not tell a lie or steal someone else's thunder. The same rules of evidence apply with PowerPoint. When you use a quote, table, figure, or summarize someone else's work, cite the source.
7. **Thou shalt surely back up thy presentation.** Save and save often is not just good advice, it should be the law. Remember, it is not "if" technology will fail, it is when; and you must be prepared. Backup your work on disk!
8. **Thou shalt not read the slides word for word.** If all the learner needed to do was read the slide, you would not need to be there. Use the slides as *guides* for a presentation. Also, don't take the slides right out of your resources. Use the slides to zero in on important topics, and add more material orally!
9. **Thou shalt not use slides alone.** One or more hours of nothing but talk and PowerPoint slides would bore anyone. Use interactive exercises to address other learning styles. Remember, the mind can only absorb what the butt can endure. (Even if your presentation is only 15 minutes it is still a good idea to use interactive exercises, demonstrations, or other such methods to supplement your PowerPoint mini-lecture.)
10. **Thou shalt practice.** Don't go in cold and fumble. PowerPoint is only a tool — one you need to use with poise and confidence.
11. **Thou shalt allow the listener time to process the slides.** While fast talking makes great commercials, it does not make for effective instruction. Don't put up a slide and then skip over it — that's very confusing. Always allow time for questions, and encourage your audience to ask them. Be sure to determine if your audience understands the concepts you are presenting before moving on.

Source: <http://www.nvcc.edu/home/lshulman/PowerPoint.htm>