

The topic: Choose a topic that is interesting to you, something that you would like to learn more about. You will only get credit for material that was *not* covered in class, so be sure to check the syllabus and textbook before making your decision.

Important dates:

- **Thursday, Feb 10** Submit your intended topic, and whether you will be giving a *talk* or a *poster*.
- **Thursday, Apr 28** The symposium will take place in the classroom during our usual class time.

Specific instructions—Talks:

- You will have a time limit of only 8 minutes. This should be plenty of time to cover your key points, but it will go by very quickly if you are not prepared, so *be prepared!*
- Although it is not required, you are encouraged to use visual aids.
- You do *not* need to turn in any written material except for your references (see below).

Specific instructions—Posters:

- You must provide your own poster board and whatever materials you need. Poster boards should fall within the following dimensions: Width: 20 – 30 inches; Length: 30 – 40 inches.
- Posters should be well organized, so that the key points can be readily understood.
- Although individuality is encouraged, a balance between writing and images is a good way to go. In general, a minimum of three images is good; and the total amount of written material should be equivalent to 3 – 5 pages of text.
- At the bottom or on the back of your poster list your references (see below).

References:

- You must have a minimum of three references
- No more than one of these references can be an encyclopedia
- At least one of the references must be from a *printed publication* that is *not* an encyclopedia
- Choose good, reliable references. Books and magazines are usually good. Web sites and online articles can be good, *but may not be!* If you're not sure, ask me.
- Be sure to include a list of your references. For books and magazine articles, provide the name of the book or magazine, the author, and the date of publication. For online articles, simply provide the web address. The specific format is not important.

Grading: Both talks and poster presentations will be graded on the same points, namely:

- How thoroughly was the topic covered by the presentation?
- Were the references well chosen?
- Was the presentation interesting and appealing? If it was a talk, was the talk clear and engaging? If it was a poster, was the poster well organized and visually interesting?

IMPORTANT!!!

- Everything that you say (in a talk) or print (on a poster) must be in *your own words*. If you use someone else's words, *even if it's just a single phrase*, you must use quotations marks and provide the reference. Otherwise, it is *plagiarism*, which will hurt your grade significantly.
- How much can you quote? There is no fixed rule, but you should only use quotations sparingly. ***MOST OF THE REPORT MUST BE WRITTEN IN YOUR OWN WORDS!***

Through it all, try to enjoy the process! This is your chance to learn about something that you find interesting, and to share it with the rest of us. Have fun!