**Wars and Conflict Current Event Assignment**

A large portion of this class will be dedicated to studying and understanding current conflicts around the globe. For this assignment you will be working in groups of 3-5 people. This will be your group for the entire semester. SO CHOOSE WISELY.

**Part 1: Presentation**

Your group will choose one of the following topics to focus on…

* Syrian Civil War
* Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
* Kashmir Conflict
* Somali Civil War
* South Sudanese Civil War
* Yemeni Civil War
* War on Terror
* Mexican Drug War
* War in Afghanistan
* Kurdish-Turkish Conflict

You will present this topic to the class and will later be expected to bring in current event articles for everyone to read and discuss.

1. Provide background and history leading up to this conflict. Context matters! What are the root causes of this conflict?
2. Why was this event significant?
3. What were the causes/effects of this event?
4. Important vocabulary
5. Key individuals and groups involved
6. What is the conflict like for the common soldiers? How about civilians?
7. Why is this conflict relevant?

You will be given one week in the computer lab to research and put your presentation together. Your presentation should last 15 minutes and should end with a question and answer session. Slides can have a MAXIMUM of 60 words. You may show video clips, but they will not count as more than two minutes towards your total presentation time.

**Presentation Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **10-8 Points** | **7-5 Points** | **4-2 Points** | **1-0 Points** |
| **Time** | 15 minutes | 14-11 minutes | 10-5 minutes | <5 minutes |
| **Visuals** | Images, videos, maps, and graphs enhance the overall presentation. Visuals keeps the attention of the audience and you carefully explain any images. | Presentation contains images, videos, or maps that are relevant to the conflict. Some go unexplained. | Presentation contains some graphics but they fail to keep the attention of the audience. Your group does not explain graphics. | Visuals are either missing or irrelevant. |
| **Presentation** | Presentation is professional and demonstrates pride. Everyone in the group speaks clearly and distinctly. Slides do not exceed 60 words. | Presentation is professional and demonstrates pride. Most members of the group speak clearly and distinctly. | Questionable professionalism. Less than half of the group speaks clearly and professionally. You read directly off of each slide. | Presentation is sloppy and unprofessional. Only one member does any speaking. Does NOT speak clearly and distinctly. |
| **Content** | You group goes above and beyond the minimum requirements. You thoroughly and accurately explain the conflict and its significance. | Adequately presents the information required. All facts and the class has a solid understanding of the conflict. | For the most part, the information you present is accurate. Your group either glosses over or omits some important information. | Facts presented are inaccurate or irrelevant. |
| **Sources** | Your group uses at least 10 reliable sources and the presentation contains an MLA works cited page at the end. | Your group uses 9-7 reliable sources and the presentation contains an MLA works cited page at the end. | Your group uses 6-4 reliable sources. Works cited is not in MLA format. | You group uses less than 3 sources or works cited is missing. |
| **Question/ Answer** | All questions answered | Most questions answered. | Some questions answered. | None of the questions were answered. |

**Part 2: Discussion**

As we explore different topics in class your group will be expected to do some outside research on your conflict and share it with the class. You can find articles on the internet, in magazines, or in newspapers. Every week one group will bring in a current event article for us to discuss as a class. All members in your group need to read and annotate your article.

**How you will be graded…**

Group Presenting

* Article (10 points): Your group turns in a relevant and interesting article on the assigned date.
* Preparation/Pre-Discussion Sheet (20 points): Your group has chosen an appropriate format to discuss this article. Everyone in your group has a deep understanding of the material and is ready to contribute to the discussion. If necessary, you have assigned roles within your group to help guide the discussion. If desks need to be moved, you have told Mr. Hollister ahead of time.
* Discussion (20 points): Overall, the discussion flows smoothly. Your fellow classmates are able to understand any directions you may give as well as the topic of the current events. Your group does their best to make sure students are respectful towards each other and the classroom has a welcoming and positive atmosphere. All members of your group contribute in meaningful ways and make a visible effort to include all classmates and all viewpoints. The total time spent discussing your article is at least twenty minutes.

Participants

* Participation (20 points): You must contribute to other groups’ discussions at least 20 times throughout the semester. If you participate more than required you will receive extra credit.
* Behavior (1 point): You will receive one point for each discussion day. You must be respectful towards your classmates and follow instructions given by the leading group.
* Reflection Sheet (20 points): You must complete a reflection sheet and turn it in the day following the discussion.

Everyone

* Everyone must turn in their annotated articles the day after the discussion. Each annotated article will be worth five points.

Some questions you may want to ask yourself when choosing your current event articles…

* What is happening here?
	+ Can you understand the topic? (If not, you probably should find another article)
* What is your source?
	+ Where did this article come from? Is the author an expert? Is there any potential bias? Can this be interpreted in different ways?
* How does this relate to class?
* Why is this topic important?
	+ How does it affect us?
* How do you feel about this issue?
* What would be the best discussion format for this article?

Current Event Rubric

Group:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 |
| Preparation/Pre-Discussion Sheet | \_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Discussion  | \_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
|  | Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_/50 |

Pre-Discussion Sheet

1. Title:
2. Author:
3. Organization:
4. Potential Bias:
5. Explain how this relates to what we have covered in class.
6. Discussion Format
7. Discussion Questions (Minimum of six)
8. Roles (Explain what each of you will be doing during the discussion)

Discussion Reflection

Seminar #

Title/Author/Source: (1 pt.)

Three Opening Questions (1 pt. each)

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1. Summary of key ideas: (2 pts)
2. Reaction: Identify what someone said; write down their comment. React to their statement. (2 pts)
3. Explain how the discussion influenced your thinking about the topic or text. (2 pts)
4. Connection: Identify and explain a connection to… (2 pts)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Writer/poet | News article | Movie | Song |
| Commercial | Photo/painting | TV show | Person you know |
| Experience you had | Observation | Another culture | Another class |

1. Self-Assessment: (1 pt. each)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Taking a position on a question | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Using evidence to support a position or presenting factual information | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Drawing another person into the discussion | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Asking a clarifying question or moving the discussion along | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Personal goal for next discussion: (2 pts)

Identify a group goal and how you would be willing to contribute towards it: (2 pts)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Student | **Annotations Checklist** | Teacher |
|  | Paragraphs Numbered |  |
|  | Key Terms Circled |  |
|  | Support Underlined or Highlighted |  |
|  | Comments/Questions in the Margins (At least two per page) |  |
|  | Effort: It is clear you have read, analyzed, and connected with the text. |  |

Final Score: \_\_\_\_\_/5