

Conspiracy Theories Presentation Assignment



Topic Selection

- **Either** your assigned topic from our unit of study on conspiracy theories
- **Or** analysis of a conspiracy theory, with application of at least 3 of the theories and concepts we've discussed. If you choose this topic, please do not select one of the conspiracy theories we have spent serious time discussing in class.

The Components of Your Presentation

- Your presentation must present **an argument** about conspiracy theories. For instance, you could argue that Cass Sunstein's theory that the United States should engage in cognitive infiltration presents dangers to democracy" or that "the JFK Conspiracy theory demonstrates the epistemic and existential motives that drive conspiracy theorists."
- Your presentation should include: **necessary background information, key definitions, analysis of terms/concepts, and implications to consider.** That might even make an ideal structure for the presentation, but its form is up to you.

Assignment Requirements

- The presentation should be **3-6 minutes long** and must include an electronic visual set of slides using something like Keynote, Prezi, Google Slides or PowerPoint. Make sure that your presentation file is available the day of the presentation. Share the file with Mr. Pogreba before the end of day you present.
- Time over six minutes will not count towards your grade.
- Your presentation should include a minimum of **four sources, two of which must be scholarly works.**
- While the presentation does not need to be memorized, it should not consist of:
 - Reading slides at the audience.
 - Reading notes from cards or a piece of paper.
- Ideally, your presentation will demonstrate that you have spent time reviewing and preparing the material.
- After the presentation, you should be prepared to answer 2-3 questions from Mr. Pogreba and the class. Your answers should demonstrate clear understanding of your argument, your research, and your presentation materials.



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Scoring Rubric

Proficiency	Score 0 if...	Points earned for...		
ESTABLISH ARGUMENT	The presentation offers a series of unsubstantiated opinions. It is not academic in nature. 0 Pt	The presentation an issue or concept but does not present a compelling argument with well-selected evidence and analysis. 2 Pts	The presentation conveys its ideas using evidence that is not well selected for the situation. 4 Pts	The presentation conveys its ideas convincingly through strategic selection of supporting evidence. 6 Pts
UNDERSTAND AND ANALYZE CONTEXT	The presentation does not identify or only minimally identifies crucial elements of the theories or concept presented. 0 Pt	The presentation describes pros and/or cons of potential options related to the topic. The presentation describes limitations or implications but in an inconsistent, illogical, overly broad, or otherwise unconvincing manner. 2 Pts	The presentation thoroughly and thoughtfully explores the research available to come to conclusions supported by the evidence. The argument is contextual, academic, and provides interesting insight into the issues presented. 4 Pts	
ENGAGE AUDIENCE (PERFORMANCE)	The presenting is entirely inappropriate for the audience, purpose or context. 0 Pt	The presenter makes little or no use of techniques to engage the audience. 2 Pts	At times, the presenter effectively engages the audience. The presenter demonstrates uneven delivery or performance techniques. 4 Pts	The presenter effectively engages the audience through strategic intentional use of performance techniques most of the time. 6 Pts
ENGAGE AUDIENCE (DESIGN)	No design or minimal design with significant errors. 0 Pt	The presentation's design demonstrates an understanding of media and design elements but does not enhance the message or does so inconsistently. 2 Pts	Overall, the design clearly guides viewers through the presentation and demonstrates strategic selection of media and design elements that help clarify the argument 4 Pts	
COLLABORATE REFLECT	The presenter offers generic responses that could apply to any project or the answers may be unacceptably brief. 0 Pt	Two or more of the responses in the oral defense support their answers with some relevant evidence specific to the presentation 2 Pts	All responses in the oral defense articulate detailed answers to the question asked and support those answers with relevant evidence specific to on this project. 4 Pts	

