

Juniors Presentation 2 on an academic article

CHOOSING YOUR ARTICLE: Try to present on one you are quite interested in that's not too difficult to explain to your classmates. You and your partner may choose your own article by yourselves. It needs to be from a political academic journal but need not be from your subfield. Alternatively, you may suggest a topic to the instructor, and he can find possible articles about the topic for you to choose from, at least three. Your article may be policy-based or theoretical, a single case study, small or large-N, old or new. You do not have to agree with your article, and in fact disagreeing w/ the authors and presenting your reasons why they are wrong or the article is flawed would likely make for a more interesting presentation (and likely a higher grade for display of advanced critical thinking). If your article is "just a literature review" rather than "original research," special/different requirements may apply than those below.

REQUIREMENTS: In addition to those described in the syllabus, makes sure you do the following...Your presentation should be between 5-10 minutes; shorter would be insubstantial while much longer would likely lose your classmates' attention w/ the difficulty of the material. One of your goals should be to keep the audience's attention and present the main points of the article in a way we can understand in a very short amount of time.

Your presentation must explicitly state: ○ the main research question & why it is important (if it's not obviously important)

- how the authors answer the research question (how many hypothesis do they discuss/test, and are their methods quantitative, qualitative, named by one or more methodological approaches)
 - the authors' answer to the research question, their evidence & reasoning
- If you're presenting a policy paper, you must connect it to a theory. If you're presenting a theory paper, you must say how it relates to or is important for policy.
- whether you disagree with any of the assumptions, main points, the validity of their methods to answer the research question, the case selection(s), and why (these might be considered "weaknesses" of the article, and they should be criticized)
- If your article is old, especially if written before the 21st century, explain why it is still relevant today, if new studies have used it as a foundation for new research (and how they have agreed with or challenged the main points), or it has been refuted/discredited.
- If your article is very new (i.e. written within the past ten years), mention the most famous foundational theories, books, and scholars it is built upon.

Be prepared to answer at least one question from the instructor (& your classmates, hopefully) about your article and/or your presentation after you finish.

FORMAT & STYLE OPTIONS: You may give a standard, brief talk w/ a visual aid such as a Powerpoint presentation. You may have a dialog about your article w/ your partner if it covers the requirements (doing this well, such as with a debate or disagreement, will likely earn a higher grade for being more engaged with the material). Other, more creative presentations should be proposed and approved by the instructor (such as writing a song, dramatic/comedic sketch to perform, etc.). Due to the short length, use of other media such as videos is not recommended.

If your article has key graphs or charts that can explain their main points efficiently, your presentation should probably show them.

MISTAKES TO AVOID: Don't go into great detail on anything unless it is VERY important to what you want to say about the article. If you only have ten minutes, most of the details are NOT important.

Don't make your presentation plan until you and your partner both really understand the article; if anything is unclear, ask the instructor for help.

If you can do a good job on this presentation, congratulations! You're ready for graduate school.