

# History 201: The History of News

Spring 2018

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## **Presentation #1—Introduce a Reading and Discussion**

Let me share a few details on the presentations you will do on the readings. As I said, a more formal presentation will come at the end of the course, when you present your research. This first presentation is a simpler occasion to help everyone get a handle on the reading and sharpen your skills of public speaking. You will do this in groups of two. It is essential that you coordinate your work before class.

Your goal: lay the groundwork for a good discussion.

Timing: I'd like your presentation to last about 5-6 minutes (no less than 4, no more than 7 or 8).

What to do? Introduce the reading and prepare us for discussion. Do this in three steps:

- 1) Tell us a few important things about the author(s). Who are they? What are they known for? When were they active?
- 2) Tell us about this source. When was it written? What was its context? What is the main message here? What has been its influence?
- 3) Share a big question (or a few questions) that we should think about as we discuss.

This will require some very basic research (encyclopedias). I'm not going to ask you for references. But I'll hold you to account for knowing what you are talking about and getting details right. I don't expect that this will take much time in addition to the reading.

I suggest you bring in a simple Powerpoint or Google Slides presentation — with three slides corresponding to the three points above. As an alternative, you can write details and questions on the blackboard before class.

## **Tips on Presentations**

Don't use a lot of words on your slides. These should present key details and outline your presentation, but you don't want your audience to spend all their time reading.

Practice the oral presentation a bit, so you can present it well.

Feel free to have notes in hand, but don't read your entire presentation from a script.

Speak to the class, not to the screen.

When you are done, say "Thank you!"