

Sophomore Final Project - 2006

The goal of this project is to research a topic [from the list below or from a topic of your own choosing, with my approval first] and create a product reflecting that research in the form of an in-depth PowerPoint presentation [PPT], a mini-web site, or a comprehensive DBQ with written answer.

It will be worth 200 points [with a 50 point extra credit option]. Obviously, *it must be historically accurate, show incite and creativity, and be completed by **Tuesday, June 6*** [burned on a CD or stored on a flash drive, in the case of the PPT]. A formal bibliography [in the Chicago-style of citations] must be included.

You may work alone or in a pair if you choose the PowerPoint project, or the mini-web site; the DBQ is a solo project.

All finished projects **MUST** be handed in to me in a **NEW, CLEAN** folder. All xeroxed copies of any primary source documents [with highlighted excerpts actually used in some way in your project], grading rubrics, and, in either the case of the DBQ [a hardcopy printout, too] or PPT, a burned CD with that completed PPT, documents, or DBQ file and answer, **MUST BE INCLUDED!!**

1. PowerPoint Presentation:

- **25 content** slides, excluding title and sub-title/section slides [if you do this alone] or **50 content** slides [if done in a pair]. Divide your presentation into sub-topics/sections.
- Text should be clear, concise, and to the point [don't clutter a slide with more than 5 bulleted pieces of information].
- Graphics **MUST BE VERY CLEAR**, not foggy or blurry. They can include pictures, photos, art, maps, charts, graphs, etc.].
- Sound is optional [if used, use sparingly and for special effect or mood].
- Animation also should be used for special effect or emphasis. Don't go zooming or flying in everything on the slide [it should not distract from the information presented on that slide].
- You **MUST** add notes to all of the slides of a few sentences in length per slide. These notes should reflect the information that you would verbalize if giving an oral presentation or that you feel would add more background, explanation, or meaning to the slide, but that you don't feel is important enough to emphasis on the slide itself.
- Besides the content, a PowerPoint presentation should have a good background and color scheme that reflects in some way the subject being presented. [Think of the many PPTs that I have shown throughout the year—the color of the slide, the text colors, the shape of bullets, etc., should reflect the theme of your topic]. You should create a "master slide" for the entire presentation. For help with this, attend one of my mini-workshops on "PPT 'bells & Whistles'." You should **NOT** have a different background color or design for each slide!!
- This is **NOT** a "cut-and-paste" project!! Thought, research, and organization must be evident to obtain a high grade.
- You must include a minimum of **SIX primary source documents** as part of your background research on your topic.

- An additional 50 points can be gained by increasing your PPT by adding 7 [or 14 if a pair] content slides of substantive information/graphics to your original presentation.

Your **grade** will be based on the following criteria:

100 points - for content and historical accuracy.

50 points - for visuals/graphics [and their appropriateness].

50 points - for organization, formatting, clarity of theme/thesis/continuity/slide notes.

50 extra credit points - for 7/14 additional content slides.

2. *Mini-Web Site*: [If you don't know who to create a web site, this is NOT the time to learn. Thus, choose to do a PowerPoint project instead.]

When you view a web site, you encounter more than words and information. Most sites are designed to catch your eye and hold your attention, as well as to inform you. The more artistic and carefully designed the site, the more likely one is to appreciate and understand the information presented within it.

The over-arching goal for this project is the creation of an informative and interesting historical web site. First, the content should be solid and engaging. Second, the site should be clear in its purpose and to its potential audience. Third, the site navigation devices [buttons/links] should ease navigation and access to additional information. Fourth, in your research, you **MUST** have evidence of referencing at least **FOUR** primary source documents on your research topic!

Your web site will include the following essential parts:

1. **MAIN or HOME PAGE** --> It should include a page title, a navigational system [buttons/links to other pages on your site and/or to other sites], and a text introduction [it could also include imbedded hypertext links to other web sites] describing the thesis of your research and a general introduction to the topic. Finally, links to other pages on your site should be clearly identified.
2. **THREE ADDITIONAL PAGES** --> Sub-divide your research into **THREE** sub-topics and create a page for each sub-topic that includes the main elements of the home page, but also has graphics, sound, video files [when appropriate] on each page to add visual information that enhances interest in your text information.
3. **BIBLIOGRAPHY/LINKS PAGE** --> You will cite thoroughly all sources referenced/actually used for your research. Be sure to use the Chicago-style of citing your references [****** see my Research Page for links to cites that give examples of the Chicago-style of citation]. Also, this page should include an additional section of suggested web links for the viewer's information which they could use to further their own study of your research topic.

You **MUST** create a storyboard or visual flowchart of the layout of your site and show it to me by **Monday, May 22** for approval before you begin to create the actual pages. It should include the site architecture [structure] and navigational buttons/links to any other pages within the site.

Remember, a good web page is much more than just a collection of links. Anyone can collect links. A good web page combines the links with the text to create a hypertext [a text with an imbedded link that leads the viewer down a linear path to other pages and other links, etc.]. The viewer can follow many different paths within your site. Therefore, you should choose the links for how they integrate into your text, or your overall idea of what each page in your site is supposed to be and do. Like any writing you do, the more focused, unique, and integrated each of your pages are, the better informed and interested the viewer will be in your research topic. Likewise, pages that are primarily lists of links topped by paragraphs explaining them, are not quality pages!

Develop a mini-web site appropriate to the time period/topic you research. For example, if you elect to do your research on some topic from the French Revolution, the fonts, illustrations, colors [possible blue, white, and red?], and layout should reflect something about the French Revolution. Therefore, compose a web site that integrates a design theme into your architecture, composition, color, and layout so that it enhances the presentation of the historical content and creates a visual identity of your research topic for a prospective viewer.

You can add an **additional 50 points for extra credit** by creating a 4th additional page to the required three. Be sure to have an additional link to it on all of your other pages! Your grade will be based on the criteria sheet for the mini-web site project enclosed in this packet.

❄❄ Fair Use Information ❄❄

Since you will create your web pages and place them on your own web site on the WWW, accessible to anyone in the world, you must be aware of common standards of taste, propriety, copyright and other legal issues. There is a difference between being creative and out of the bounds of good taste, which is NOT acceptable! You should be aware of legal copyright rules. I have links posted on my Research Page that will direct you to sites that provide you with the information necessary to help you stay within the legal boundaries of copyright issues. Be sure to access those pages before posting any web graphics, pictures, tunes, personally scanned graphics, etc., on any of the pages on your own web site.

Remember, your web site must NOT be a smaller "cut-n-paste" version of an existing site!!! It is very easy for me to do a web search on your topic and find out if you have plagiarized someone else's work!!!

3. DBQ:

- You must create a compelling question that would generate *opposing points of view*. [It should be an umbrella or essential question!]
- Find a good mix of text and visual documents that will be used to answer your question [reflecting those differing points of view].
- You must include at least 12-14 documents, the majority [9-10] of which should be text documents.
- Be careful, when choosing selections from text documents, that you do not distort the original meaning of the document with the snippet that you use in the DBQ.
- You must have your compelling **question** written and submitted to me for approval by **Monday, May 15** [fill out the proposal page and bring it to class on Monday].
- Please follow the template that I use for DBQs --> I will provide the file for you to download from the project page on my web site .
- You can gain an additional 50 points by creating a separate H-O-H packet that includes 9-12 additional documents on your DBQ topic that also includes SIX key discussion questions that could be used by a discussion leader.

Your **grade** will be based on the following criteria:

100 points - for the DBQ itself.

100 points - for your written answer to the DBQ created.

50 extra credit points - 9 to 12 document H-O-H packet with 6 accompanying discussion questions.