Research Group Background Presentations Guidelines

Research Background Presentations will include the following:

PART I: BACKGROUND RESEARCH (Due date: See Syllabus)

* 4 or more resources that contain relevant background information for your research topic.
* AT LEAST 2 of the 4+ articles must be PRIMARY SOURCES, meaning peer-reviewed, published research articles.
* Completed resource evaluations for each of the 4+ resources, INCLUDING A SEPARATE, TYPED SUMMARY PARAGRAPH
* 4-6 potential research questions, testable hypotheses, or avenues for further research based on the 4+ resources you have identified.
* An APA-style citation list that includes all resources.

PART II: PRESENTING RESEARCH (Due date: See Syllabus)

* Powerpoint Presentation (or posterboard, etc.) that describes the broad topic – not a specific planned experiment. All 4+ resources should be included in the presentation. It should also include the 4-6 questions / hypotheses from the background research.
* “One Sheet” informational summary. Treat this as a single page to explain to your classmates what your research topic is about, and why it is interesting.

The goal of these presentations is to communicate your findings about your research topic to your classmates. The presentation should include:

* Brief descriptions of the articles you have reviewed
* Potential areas of student research and questions you have developed
* An introduction to the field and why it is important and interesting

The one-sheet is a single page document that condenses all of the information you have gathered and produced in one page. Construct it as if it was a flyer or poster intended to garner the interest of your fellow students. It should include brief references to the various questions that could be pursued by student researchers as well as the most exciting / interesting aspects of your topic.

Finding resources:

Start here:

1. Log into bcpss.org.

2. Click “Student Resources”

3. Any links are valid for research, but try Science Reference Center first.

Grading Rubric (20 pt scale)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 4+ Research articles (hard copies!) and citations | At least 2 articles available | 3 articles incl. 2 primary sources, or 4 articles, incl. 1 primary sources, or 4 articles but missing citations | As a 4, except only 1 primary source. | 4 articles, incl. 2 primary sources, APA citations complete. |
| Resource Evaluations / Article Summaries (each) | Clearly inadequate, or contain multiple factual, grammatical, or other errors. Any hand-written summaries. | May contain a significant error, or several minor issues. The main topic of the article is correctly identified and explained however. | Generally complete and accurate, may contain 1-2 minor errors of fact or grammar. | Summaries are complete yet concise and demonstrate a clear understanding of the article they refer to. |
| Research Questions | At least 1 of the proposed questions provide plausible, testable directions for future research | At least 2 of the proposed questions provide plausible, testable directions for future research | At least 3 of the proposed questions provide plausible, testable directions for future research | At least 4 of the proposed questions provide plausible, testable directions for future research |
| Presentation | One or more elements is missing entirely, and one or more others are lacking. Also includes presentations that would otherwise be a “2” but are poorly designed or presented. | One element listed in the description may be missing or woefully inadequate. A presentation meeting the criteria for a “3” which is poorly designed or presented. | Contains all elements listed in description, though 1 or 2 may be too short. An otherwise complete presentation that is poorly designed or presented. | Visually impressive, contains all elements listed in description. Free from grammatical and factual errors. Presentation is easily understood and handled smoothly. |
| One sheet | Lacking key information about the topic, and visually uninteresting. | n/a | Some piece of key information is absent, or the product is very visually lacking. | Eye-catching design is combined with clear presentation of concise information.  |