

Scaffolding Assignments Example

Presentation Project 1

Working alone, create a presentation on a civilization of your choice (from the sign up list) in 7 PowerPoint slides.

The objective of the assignment is for you to spend a bit more time getting to know a particular civilization—where it is, when it occurred, what the major features were, what life was like, and what connections it had to other civilizations. Include things like time period, location, features of state level organization, connections to other polities, subsistence practices, and environmental characteristics, etc. Limit the text you put in the slides, but use the notes feature in PowerPoint to include information that is relevant to the presentation. Write the notes as if you were presenting this information to the class orally. You may use any of the lecture materials, textbook information, or additional readings as resources for your presentation. Please do not use additional resources unless they have been approved by your instructor (minimum 5 days in advance of the due date). Also, do not rely on internet resources such as Wikipedia for information. Be sure to use good quality images to convey your points. When selecting images online, be sure to check that the image actually pertains to the civilization you are discussing. You must include the links of the images you use at the end of your presentation, a simple list will do.

Requirements:

- You must have 7 slides, no more, no less.
- For each slide you must have between 100 and 250 words in the notes section of the PowerPoint detailing the major points and lessons of each slide. Think of it as crib notes of what you were to say to the class if you were giving the presentation orally. You may use either bullet points or complete sentences. Either way, the point of each slide must be clear.
- You must have an opening and summary slide, leaving 5 slides for solid content.
- Each slide can have no more than 50 words, or 4 lines of text. This does not include the text in the notes section.
- You must communicate the basic knowledge of the featured civilization in a clear and coherent manner.
- You must include the following information: dates, location, features of state level society, environment, important innovations, and connections to other polities. You can provide additional information as well, as long as it pertains to the civilization and is credible information provided from course materials.

The presentation must be aesthetically pleasing. Meaning clear images, no harsh colors, no hard to read fonts, etc.

Peer Review of Presentation Project 1

After you have submitted your Presentation Project 1, you will be assigned to peer review the presentations of two of your fellow classmates. If you are not sure how to find your peer reviews, review the Canvas Guides in the Resources section below.

You are evaluating your peers' work based on the rubric attached to Presentation Project 1. Please remember to be respectful and grade with your full attention. Grading assignments are automatically

generated by Canvas. This Peer Review is worth 20 points towards your final grade (10 points for each review). See rubric below.

Presentation Project 2

Working in groups you are to create a PowerPoint presentation comparing and contrasting two civilizations. Your groups will be automatically generated. The objective of the assignment is to better understand the development of civilizations using a method well known to anthropologists: comparison. Each group will have their own discussion board to converse about and provide information for the project. This discussion board will be checked by your instructors to ensure participation by all students. You will be creating the PowerPoint presentation collaboratively as well. See instructions below.

For Project 1 you presented information on a civilization of your choosing. The group you are assigned to for Project 2 includes fellow students (about 4-5) who also presented their finds on that same civilization (if you presented on Egypt, so did they). Additionally, you are joined by 5-6 other students who presented on another civilization (say for instance Ancient Greece). As a group, you are to create a 7 slide PowerPoint that compares and contrasts your two civilizations (Egypt v. Greece). Again, compare things like time period and location, features of political and economic organization, social categories and features, the role of religion and art, technological innovations, connections to other polities, subsistence practices, and environmental characteristics, etc. You may use your research from your first project as a starting point. Work as a group from the beginning, you might find that your fellow students wrote about something you did not or that you highlighted something that others overlooked. Work together to determine the most significant points to make in your presentation. This is not simply a combination of PowerPoint slides. The slide content must focus on the similarities and differences between the two civilizations.

As always limit the text you put in the slides, but use the notes feature in PowerPoint to include information that is relevant to the presentation. Write the notes as if you were presenting this information to the class orally. You may use any of the lecture materials, textbook information, or additional readings as resources for your presentation. Please do not use additional resources unless they have been approved by your instructor (minimum 5 days in advance of the due date). Also, do not rely on internet resources such as Wikipedia for information. Be sure to use good quality images to convey your points. When selecting images online, be sure to check that the image actually pertains to the civilization you are discussing. You must include the links of the images you use at the end of your presentation, a simple list will do (this can also be a separate document).

Requirements:

- The group leader will be automatically generated by Canvas. This person must create the collaborative PowerPoint document and add all fellow students in the group. They are also responsible for submitting the final project in Canvas.
- You must compare and contrast the two civilizations in a clear and coherent manner. This is not to be a series of slides of two different civilizations. Each content slide must contain comparative points of each civilization.
- You must have 7 slides, no more, no less. You must have an opening and summary slide, leaving 5 slides for solid content.
- For each slide you must have between 100 and 250 words in the notes section of the PowerPoint detailing the major points and lessons of each slide. Think of it as crib notes of what you were to say to the class if you were giving the presentation orally. You may use either bullet points or complete sentences. Either way, the point of each slide must be clear.

- Each slide can have no more than 50 words, or 4 lines of text. This does not include the text in the notes section.
- You must include the following: dates, locations, political, economic, social, technological, environmental and religious details pertaining to the two civilizations.
- The presentation must be aesthetically pleasing. Meaning clear images, no harsh colors, no hard to read fonts, etc.

Peer Reviews of Presentation Project 2

After you and your group have submitted your Presentation Project 2, you will be assigned to peer review the presentations of two other groups. If you are not sure how to find your peer reviews, review the Canvas Guides in the Resources section below.

You are evaluating your peers' work based on the rubric attached to Presentation Project 2. Please remember to be respectful and grade with your full attention. Grading assignments are manually generated within Canvas, and I will send out an announcement once they are generated. This Peer Review is worth 20 points towards your final grade (10 points for each review). See rubric below.

Presentation Project 3

Working alone, you are to create a PowerPoint presentation that encompasses both Project 1 and Project 2 with an additional component: a section on where your ancient civilization is today. The objective of the assignment is to understand how the world we live in today is a product of our past. Your final PowerPoint presentation will be 17 slides long, encompassing 5 slides on your ancient civilization (Project 1), 5 slides of comparison to another civilization (Project 2), 5 slides reporting on where your civilization is today, plus 2 slides for introduction & summary.

For the final third you are to research the region of your civilization today. How has the region been affected by the existence of your civilization? Do descendants of that civilization still live there today? How have they changed? How have politics, religion, society, language, settlement pattern, technology, economics, subsistence, and the environment changed in the region? You might perhaps have to investigate how other groups were affected by your civilization, its presence, its collapse. Look into the current events of the region. What are the most recent news stories focused on in that region? Does archaeology have a role to play in understanding the current political, social, economic, or environmental issues? Are there archaeological remains still present from the ancient civilization? How are they cared for? What do they mean to people today as opposed to the past? These are just a few suggestions from a long list of ways you could focus your project. Remember you must focus on current events and recent history, only going back the last few years. Pay attention to the transition from topic to topic in your presentation, flow is important if you wish to convey ideas clearly.

As always limit the text you put in the slides, but use the notes feature in PowerPoint to include information that is relevant to the presentation. Write the notes as if you were presenting this information to the class orally. You may use any of the lecture materials, textbook information, or additional readings as resources for your presentation. You will need to get any additional resources approved by your instructor (minimum 5 days in advance of the due date). Do not rely on internet resources such as Wikipedia, blogs, or personal websites for information. You may use news articles, research websites, scholarly articles, and books. A useful resource is Google Scholar (if you are connected to UF it will allow you free access to many resources). Be sure to use good quality images to convey your points. When selecting images online, be sure to check that the image actually pertains to the civilization you are discussing. You must include the links of the images you

use at the end of your presentation, a simple list will do (this can also be a separate document). This project will be graded by your instructors.

Requirements:

- You must incorporate Project 1 and Project 2 information into your final PowerPoint. You may reorganize information, add new information, etc. Make sure that the sections flow together well as if this were one cohesive presentation.
- You must have 17 slides, no more, no less. You must have an opening and summary slide.
- The third portion presentation must focus on the region of your civilization today. You may include information regarding its collapse in the section relating to Project 1
- For each slide you must have between 100 and 250 words in the notes section of the PowerPoint detailing the major points and lessons of each slide. Think of it as crib notes of what you were to say to the class if you were giving the presentation orally. You may use either bullet points or complete sentences. Either way, the point of each slide must be clear.
- Each slide can have no more than 50 words, or 4 lines of text. This does not include the text in the notes section.
- The presentation must be aesthetically pleasing. Meaning clear images, no harsh colors, no hard to read fonts, etc.