

## Research Showcase Assignment

### Purpose

The time and effort you have dedicated to conducting your research will culminate in an inter-class showcase presentation of your work. On Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, each group will assemble with groups from our class along with other English 203 classes to conduct an inter-class showcase like one the university will hold on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. I will be selecting groups to advance to the University Showcase based upon your group's performance at the inter-class showcase.

The inter-class showcase is an opportunity to engage a larger community of NIU writing students and teachers by presenting your primary and secondary research and potential solutions to your research question.

There will be two required elements for your showcase presentation:

1. Visual element
2. Dynamic speech element

A third element is optional but highly encouraged

3. Interactive element

Below, you'll find a description of the requirements and due date for each element.

### Requirements

1. Visual element

Mocked-up draft due Wed. March 30<sup>th</sup>

Final version presented at the in-class showcase on Fri. April 1<sup>st</sup>

- Design a **large display** (e.g. a tri-fold board or three-dimensional display) that will serve as your group's visual aid when providing your showcase audience with key information about your research and results. It should be constructed concisely and creatively, with visual rhetoric principles in mind. At a minimum, your visual board display should include:
  - Your topic
  - The major arguments surrounding your issue
    - Use at least one major source to support each argument
  - Your group's stance on the issue (including your proposed solution(s))
    - Use evidence from especially useful sources.
- Your group will present a mocked-up version of your display to the class on Wed. March 30<sup>th</sup>. You will collectively describe your vision for the display (along with component parts displayed, taped to the board etc.). This will be your opportunity to collect peer feedback before finalizing your display the showcase.

- Your group will need to have your final display complete by the time of the in-class showcase on Fri. April 1<sup>st</sup>, when I will evaluate your display and other parts of your showcase presentation for grading purposes.

2. Dynamic speech element

Two-minute written pitch (~ 250 words) due Mon. March 28<sup>th</sup>

Five-minute discussion presented verbally in class on Wed. March 30<sup>th</sup>

- Develop a **two-minute elevator pitch** which each group member can recite on command.
  - This will include the major highlights from your project and should be geared toward gaining audience interest in your topic.
- Be prepared to **engage in an extended five-minute discussion**, during which you will be capable of demonstrating a thorough knowledge of:
  - your primary research
  - your secondary research (sources)
  - analysis in the form of insights on your topicThe attached rubric should guide your understanding of and preparation for this discussion
- This discussion should flow organically much like natural conversation and will be primarily used during the showcase presentation.
  - Be prepared to address questions from judges/attendees about your topic and your sources
- Your dynamic speech element for the showcase should be derived from components of your group paper outline.
  - Your 2-minute pitch will be submitted in writing (one per group) on the due date.
  - On the due date for your 5-minute discussion, individual members of the group will be called upon to engage in discussion on their topic during class. You will not be required to submit anything written, but you may want to bring talking points (e.g. note cards).
- Confidence is a key component to the speech element of the presentation. Make sure you and your group know your topic and talking points thoroughly. Remember, practice makes perfect.

3. Interactive element (optional but encouraged)

Final version presented at in-class showcase Fri. April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- In a showcase setting, you will compete for the time and attention of your audience. Consequently, you should strongly consider designing an **interactive component** to your presentation—something to cultivate interest in your work, or even draw a crowd. This could be a game, interactive trivia (with prizes?!), or creative treats for

those who approach your display ... giving them the incentive to linger a little while and listen to your speech.

### **Audience**

Your audience for the inter-class showcase will consist of fellow English 203 students and teachers. If you make it to the University Showcase, your audience will include the larger NIU community (administrators, faculty, staff, students etc.) and may even extend to members of the DeKalb community. As you craft your showcase materials and speeches, you will need to consider the “audience spectrum” you will encounter at the showcase. Consider the potential attitudes of those who listen to your speech or view your materials.

- Will you encounter ambivalent audience members, and how will you adapt your approach to discussing the problem with them?
- Will you have to persuade audience members of your position...or that a problem even exists?
- Will you have to educate your audience members on certain aspects of the issue?

### **Evaluation**

The inter-class showcase, including all three elements, will be worth 150 points. There will be no revision of this assignment after the inter-class showcase on April 1<sup>st</sup>, so be sure to assemble a polished presentation and visuals.

### **Additional Important Information**

You are responsible for providing any audio-visual equipment for your project, and you must first obtain confirmation that you will be able to have access to an electronic outlet (if needed).

All materials used to share your research are your responsibility. Don't use anything that is invaluable!

Appropriate dress is an important element of presentation rhetoric; talk amongst your group about what kind of clothing is appropriate, given your topic. Professional clothing is encouraged.