

Oral Exam Expectations

The Basics:

Three times this year you will be expected to deliver an oral report in front of the class. The topics will be assigned to you at random. You will be expected to be an "expert" on the topic. I know that some of you may have anxiety about presenting in front of the class, but it is required for this course.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What Are the Topics?

The topics vary. Some will be historical figures, events, movements, or specific battles or documents. I am assigning them at random so please don't make specific requests.

When Will I Present?

You will present once during each of the first three marking periods. I hope that topics will match what we are studying so that our presentations reflect what we are covering in class.

Do I Have to?

YES! It is a major grade so you must do it! Failure to do so will have a major impact on your grade.

Okay, I'll do mine, but do I have to listen to other peoples'?

YES! We will have weekly assessments and questions about orals will be included.

What do I have to do?

I'm glad you asked! For each topic you will present for at least 5, but not more than 15 minutes to the class. You will have to cover several aspects and please use only 1-2 notecards during the presentation. Someone reading off a card will give you very low scores (See Rubric). You will also have to have a visual aide (chart, graph, picture, artifact, document—almost anything works here). In addition, I would also like a handout for your classmates. Give them something informative that will remind them about your topic when they study for the quiz.

In your presentation, I want you to act as a historian. Please don't be an encyclopedia! Yes, I do want background, but I want you to do more. I want you to interpret, suggest, and research. Why is this topic important? What is its significance—its legacy. Be creative. You only have to do this three times, so make each presentation worthy of you.

Pay attention to the rubric! The rubric is the guide to a good grade!

