

## Core F | Rhetoric II | Article Presentation Assignment | 2023 - 24

The grand finale of your final year at PEP is obviously the senior thesis speech. The majority of quarters 2 and 3 will be devoted to the research of your speech, with the writing and memorization of your speech filling quarters 3 and 4. That leaves quarter 1 for the discovery phase—what in the wide world topics and issues are you going to discuss???

Since the senior speech will take up a considerable portion of your time (and your grade) in this class, it's important to choose a topic that interests you. The goal of this assignment is to help you find that topic, narrowing it to an issue that will also appeal to your audience. Over the course of the first quarter, you will present two articles to the class. If you are unsure of your topic, it may be that your articles are on completely different topics as you seek one that really resonates with you. If you are already pretty sure of your topic, it may be that your articles are on similar issues related to your topic of choice.

A secondary goal of this assignment is to practice your presentation skills, increasing your comfort level in both speech and technical presentation (PPT) through short (2 – 3 minute) summaries of articles you have read. But save the scholarly research for quarter 3—use this time to investigate blogs, podcasts, YouTube videos, etc. to get a broad-based idea of what the general public is aware of when it comes to your topic of choice.

**Expectations:** This may be a sample of what's on the surface of your issue, but yours is NOT meant to be a surface-level analysis presentation. Here's what is expected:

1. Find an article, video, podcast, etc. on your topic and read/watch/listen to it thoroughly.  
*(Note: for the first article presentation, I will assign you an article based on the interests you expressed in your Senior Survey)*
2. Take notes as you read or watch, answering questions such as:
  - What is the name of the article, its author, and its source (publication)?
  - What is the main point?
  - Does the author take a position on the issue? Do you agree or disagree?
  - Is bias evident?
  - Does it provide a point of view that may be useful to use in your speech should you choose this topic?
3. Prepare a short (3 – 5 slide) PPT to share as you present (example on Weebly)
  - Slide 1—Article name and author
  - Slides 2, 3—Main points (appear as you speak them, not word-for-word)
  - Slide 4—Take-Aways
  - Slide 5—link to article
4. Present to class (no more than 3 minutes)

**Due Dates for Article Presentations: September 7 and October 5**

Notes:

- *Bring your PPT on a flash drive, formatted as a .pptx or .key. If you use Google slides, also use Google to figure out how to convert to these formats. THIS IS IMPORTANT and will help save time on presentation day—thank you.*
- *PRACTICE your delivery—make eye contact, use gestures, pause to breathe, etc.*