

SP.401 Fall 2007 A. Walsh
Current Events Analysis Presentation Guidelines
15 minutes

The current events analysis presentation is a required assignment designed to fulfill the oral presentation component of a HASS Communication-Intensive class. Students will work in pairs to research and present an interpretation of a current event article of their choice pertaining to the topic of a given week. Your task is to **make connections** between concepts presented **in an assigned reading (or readings)** and a **“real-life” example** found in the news. This assignment requires **close reading of the news item** you choose, presenting your analysis in a coherent way to the rest of the class, along with **several follow-up questions**. Pay attention to *how* the topic is presented as well as the content of the article in your analysis.

START EARLY! Your articles will be posted on the class Web site **two days in advance** of each current event presentation, so that classmates can read your assignment before coming to class. Please email these to me.

Tips for topic/article selection:

- **Refer to the list for topic suggestions.** You don't HAVE to use one of these, but they might give you an idea of something to look for.
- **Be selective in your choice of article.** Find one that is substantive but not excessively long or complicated. Avoid tabloids, theme or genre publications, and web sources that are not credible. Ask me if you are unsure of your choice.
- **Think contemporary, not ancient.** While your article doesn't have to have been *written* in the week you are giving the presentation, try to pick something that was written in the past year.

Summarize and analyze. Make connections between the issue/event you have chosen and a concept or concepts from one or more of our readings for the week.

Pose critical questions. Ideally, your presentation will lead us into a discussion of our topic. You may want to provide a handout or write your questions on the board.

Images (optional). Some articles may include images that you would like to analyze or discuss. Plan ahead if you want to use the A-v equipment in the room, or bring copies so your classmates can see what you are analyzing.

Write-up. Submit a 2-3 page written analysis on the day of your presentation, or by the following class. This may be a co-authored document. I will give a single grade to each pair for the current events analysis, based on the success of the presentation and write-up.