Final Presentation Guidelines

Your final presentations will take place Saturday, Dec. 5 and Wednesday Dec. 9 of week 10. The presentations are to be a summary of your final paper.

Format: You will present in groups of four (approximately), with classmates who wrote on the same historical era or religion.

Each group will be an "expert panel" on their topic. To make this more lively, pretend that you're a panel on "The View" or some other talk show. While each person has approximately 5 minutes to present his/her topic, we prefer that the presentation be more of an interactive conversation among the panelists. This might include discussion of sources you used to craft your paper, conflicting information, overlapping and or contradictory findings, etc. Each group will have approximately 20 minutes to present, so make sure everyone gets equal time. This will be followed by questions/comments from your fellow panelists, other classmates and faculty.

Presentations are to be no-tech or low-tech. This is to encourage you to focus on the content of your presentation rather than wrestling with technology. You are the expert on your topic, so concentrate on your central research question, key findings and analysis. To prepare, write main ideas on note cards. Use these during the presentation to jog your memory. You may use no more than three slides of a Power Point presentation or three sheets of the document camera if you wish in order to visually convey your main points.

One tool of a successful presentation is preparation. We will be devoting class time to a dress rehearsal in your small groups on Wednesday, Dec. 2. You need to have prepared your note cards ahead of time in order to participate in this timed dry run-through of your presentation, and critique from your group mates.