



Ethnic Conflict in Foreign Countries

Your Paper Presentation: 7 to 10

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Purpose

The purpose of the course goes far beyond merely transmitting facts and figures about ethnic conflict around the world; if that is all you want, pick up an encyclopedia. The purpose of the course is to train you as a political scientist who studies ethnic conflict. And, to quote Henri Poincare, science is no more a collection of facts than a house is a collection of bricks. Other aspects of being a political scientist include individual research and presentation of that research at conferences. Your paper takes care of the individual research aspect. This presentation takes care of the other.

The Three Broad Requirements

There are three broad requirements of the presentation: it follows a logical progression; it covers the necessary information; and it is factually correct. Violations of the first create a rambling, incoherent presentation that confuses more than clarifies. Violations of the second leave the listener with more questions than answers and without a conviction that you know what you are talking about. Violations of the third are the most serious of all; they leave the listener wondering if you even belong up there and whether you are lying or are just incompetent. As these three are fundamental to a proper presentation, violations will be treated most severely (especially of the third).

To avoid violations of the first broad requirement, all presentations should follow the following outline closely:

- ◆ Introduction, ending with your thesis statement
- ◆ Brief, relevant history of the conflict
- ◆ Position of the first side (the ethnic group)
- ◆ Position of the second side (the state)
- ◆ What has been done to solve the conflict?
- ◆ What should be done to solve the conflict?

Time Limits

Timing is important, as well. At conferences, you are not allowed to talk until you run out of things to say. There is a set time limit based on the time in the panel and the number of people presenting in the panel. Typical time limits range from 10 to 15 minutes at conferences—barely enough time to present your research, but we do it, knowing that we must.

For this presentation, you will speak for *no more than 10 minutes*. If you go over 10 minutes, I will cut you off, as you are taking time away from someone else and from the question period at the end. You are also required to speak *more than seven minutes*.

PowerPoint

No PowerPoint will be allowed. You may wish to create a PowerPoint to help you organize your presentation (a very good idea), but you will not be allowed to project the PowerPoint during your presentation. It is not done in conferences; it will not be done here.

Daily Schedule

The planned schedule of the presentations will be as follows:

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| ◆ Presentation 1 | 8:00 – 8:10 |
| ◆ Presentation 2 | 8:10 – 8:20 |
| ◆ Presentation 3 | 8:20 – 8:30 |
| ◆ Presentation 4 | 8:30 – 8:40 |
| ◆ Questions from the Audience (and answers from our panel) | 8:40 – 8:50 |
| ◆ Dismissal | 8:50 |

Adjustments to the schedule will be made when the number of presenters is fewer than four.

Grading Rubric

Presentation [40 points maximum]

Presentation follows a logical progression; Material presented, not read; Length exceeds seven minutes, but not 10 minutes; Questions answered correctly; Material presented is factually correct.

Three Substantive Questions Asked [10 points maximum]

Each person is assigned to two papers, for which they are responsible for asking three substantive questions. A substantive question would be something along the lines of: Why did the Belgians rely on a minority to rule their colony instead of a majority ethnic group? What caused the two ethnic groups to see their differences as more important than their similarities? How did the presence of the drug trade aggravate the situation? The purpose of these questions is to ask something about which you are genuinely curious. The purpose is not to trip up the presenter. An example of a frivolous question would be: How often do they listen to Britney Spears?

Final Note on Time

The bare requirements are for the presentation to last between seven and 10 minutes. This does not include the question/answer period at the end; it only includes time you spend presenting the material. Any presentation less than seven minutes, or longer than 10 minutes, will have 50% of their presentation grade deducted from their final presentation grade.