**Speaking with Improved Grammar and Vocabulary**

**Spring 2016**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**FIRST ASSIGNMENT:** Submit **by email** no later than **9 AM, Monday, February 1st.**

**STEPS TO FOLLOW FOR THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT:**

1. **Choose a topic** for your presentation that interests you and that you think will interest your classmates.
2. **Write a summary statement** stating the aspect of the topic you expect to talk about. (The statement should be no longer than 25 words.)
3. **Find a reading** that is related in some way to the topic you have chosen. The reading should be from the website of a journalistic source such as a newspaper or magazine or of a professional organization. The source must be from an English-speaking country.
4. A good source for articles is LexisNexis, which you can access through the BU Libraries Database.
5. The reading should preferably be one page in length, but not longer than two pages.
6. Be sure to **provide information about the source**, i.e., the name of the author, as well as the website or the name of the magazine, book, or newspaper. If you forget this information, your reading will be returned to you so that you can provide the necessary details.
7. Write **three discussion questions** that you think your classmates will enjoy talking about. The questions should be based on your presentation and/or reading.

**EXAMPLE**

**Topic:** The role of sports in our lives

**Summary Statement:** I am going to talk about the role baseball has played in my life.

**Reading\*:** “New study showing there’s a dramatic drop in emergency room visits during important baseball games”

**Discussion questions:**

1. Which sports do you participate in? Which sports do you like to watch? Do you have any favorite teams or athletes? Why do you think sports are so popular? Are sports good or bad for society? Why?

2. When you were in school, what different sports did you play? Did you ever play for a school team? What was your best/worst moment playing a sport?

3. What are the most popular sports in your country? Who are the top athletes? How much are they paid? Do you think athletes are paid fairly, or are they paid too much? Why do you think so?

***\**** *A link to the reading also needs to be submitted.*

1. On occasion, students are asked to replace readings they have submitted, and occasionally even to change topics. The reasons for this are typically because the reading is too long or not from an appropriate source, or because the topic would not generate much group discussion after the presentation.

**SCHEDULING OF PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Presentations will begin on **Monday, February 8th.**
2. If there are any dates you will **not** be able to do a presentation, please put that **in writing** by next Monday, February 1st.
3. Also put it in writing if you **do not wish** to do the first presentation on February 8th. (If you put nothing in writing, I will assume you don’t mind being the first to do the presentation.)
4. If you are absent on the day of your presentation, the presentation **cannot** be rescheduled.

**ON THE DAY OF YOUR PRESENTATION*:***

1. The presentation is to last from 5 to 10 minutes.
2. \*\* Write the topic of your presentation on the board.
3. \*\* Use the board, when necessary, to present certain terminology or vocabulary you think your classmates may not know (or, when appropriate, for drawings or diagrams).
4. Be prepared to answer questions from your classmates and/or the teacher both during and after the presentation.
5. \*\* After your presentation, your classmates will read the text you have chosen. As they read, you will put your discussion questions on the board.
6. The class will then separate into groups and discuss the questions you have put on the board. You will join one of the groups and participate in the discussion.

*\*\*You can include steps 2 and 3 in a PowerPoint presentation. Using PowerPoint or any technology is not required. (Whether you use technology or not will have no impact on the assessment of your presentation that you will receive in the midterm or final evaluation.)*

**REMEMBER!**

1. **\*\*\*** Your presentation is **not** to be about the reading text, i.e., you are not to talk about the content of the reading.
2. **\*\*\*** Don’t write out word-for-word what you are going to say. Make some notes, if you want; then just stand up and talk for several minutes on the topic you have chosen.
3. The presentation in this class will **not** resemble one you would be expected to give in a formal business setting or college seminar. Rather, the purpose is to give you practice speaking informally in front of a group.
4. If you convey your interest in your topic during the presentation, your classmates will learn something new. Most importantly, you will get a sense of satisfaction out of being able to communicate in English something of importance and/or interest to you.

***\*\*\*****Be careful! Students in the past neglected to pay attention to this point, resulting in their not doing*

*their presentations properly, which was noted in the written evaluation of their presentation.*