

Essay Presentation Guide

- General Points
- Outline

General Points

- Do not rush – Take your time – Make sure people can follow (10-15 minutes)
- Use slides efficiently
 - No long paragraphs.
 - Large enough font size.
 - You may use visual aids (BUT no videos unless absolutely necessary)
 - Present your data
- Do not read from your notes.
- Make eye contact with the audience.
- State the structure and the scope clearly in the introduction

Introduction

- 1. Tell people your research question immediately.
- 2. Justify its importance.
- 3. Spell out the deficiencies in previous work (ex. what's your concern with people who say the U.S. is the greatest country in the world)
- 4. Explain what you are doing that's better (your innovative definition of greatness and your criteria).
- 5. Summarize your preliminary results right up front.

Background

- Historical/political background – (definitions of greatness)
- Things we should know in order to understand your research question. (the debate on American greatness – Trump, Elon Musk)
- What is the main object of your analysis?
- Why should we care?

Literature Review

- Who are the most prominent scholars on states and greatness? What do they write about?
- What are some common themes?
- What is an area that perhaps needs more attention?
(This leads to your main argument)

Research Question and Methodology

- What is your research question?
- How are you going to answer it?
- Your methodology:
 - Comparative Analysis
 - Historical Analysis
 - Content Analysis
 - Stats, or other data
- Which time period?
- Which cases?

Results

- What did you find out so far?
- Present your evidence leading up to your main argument

Discussion/Implications

- What are some implications of your results with regards to your chosen topic?
- How does your essay contribute to the literature?
- What are the implications of your conclusions for comparative politics?
- Are there any broader implications?

Conclusion

- Restate your main argument.
- Q&A

Evaluation

- Organization
- Content
 - Knowledge
 - Scope
 - Main Argument
- Delivery
 - Clarity
 - Visual Aids
 - Timing