

227 Talks: Outline

Ms. McLean
Honors U.S. History
2018-2010

Some of the main focuses of this class is on effective communication and using primary sources/historical thinking to inform your understanding of the past. As a way to practice these skills as well as explore some of your interests, you will each present one “227 Talk” each quarter on any American History topic you are interested in. These will be 15 minute presentations that you create using primary sources and historical thinking about any topic and thesis you are interested in. This presentation will be graded as a learning target grade each quarter. Completion of the notes and feedback for your classmates’ presentations, and your own self reflection, will count as capacity work.

Task:

- Research any American History topic of your choice using primary sources, secondary sources, and historical thinking to explain/defend your thesis.
- Present a 15 minute talk, in a similar style to a TED Talk, to the rest of your classmates. There will be an extra 5 minutes at the end of the talk for your classmates to ask questions.
- Each quarter will have themes. The first theme will be on a “recent” event (i.e. something that has happened between the years of 2000-2018). For this first quarter you may work in pairs to complete the assignment.

Expectations:

- Your talk will be presented in a clear, formal, and respectable manner.
- You will pass in a list of sources you have used to create the talk that explains why you consider each source to be reliable as well as identifying which sources are primary and which are secondary.
- You will complete this work on your own time outside of class. Should you need help with creating your talk it is your responsibility to reach out for help from Ms. McLean.
- You will be respectful and engaged in your classmates talks. This involves asking clarifying and open ended questions at the conclusion of the talk and completing the notes/feedback sheet.

Timeline:

- - Example of a 227 Talk by Ms. McLean.

- - Topic proposals due. **This should include your topic idea, thesis, and at least 1 primary and 1 secondary source you can use in the talk.*
- - First talk presented.
- 10/31 - All talks must be complete by the end of “1st Quarter”.

Examples:

Your talk could be:

- Your take on an interesting time in history supported by evidence.
- Your thoughts on a current event supported by evidence both current and historical.
- The history of an interest you have.