

**21L.016 / 21M.616 Spring 2007**  
**Presentation #1 guidelines**

We realize that you are at an early stage in your thinking about your upcoming analytic paper: therefore, we have designed an oral presentation assignment to help you along the path.

Use this preliminary research presentation to help establish the context and content that will be the focus of your longer essay.

For example, you may be interested in King Lear's court in both the Shakespeare and Tate plays, and therefore wonder about the connection between these stage worlds and the real-world courts of James I and Charles II respectively. Further honing your topic, you might wish to focus on the role of the great nobles (such as the Duke of Gloucester or Earl of Kent) and how their status and political importance are altered by the English civil war. In this instance, you might do an oral presentation on the economic and political changes endured by a particular aristocratic family who lived from the time of James to the time of Charles II.

Or if you enjoy thinking about the beginning of experimental science, and were interested by the observations of Robert Boyle in *The Skeptical Chemist*, you might pursue research into his debate with the philosopher Thomas Hobbes concerning proper scientific method and experimentation. In your oral presentation, you might then provide context and specific arguments (and accusations) they made concerning the pump.

Please do not present your topic at such a general level that all you can share in five minutes is broad outlines of a field (such as painting, or economics, or warfare): try to move from the general to the fascinating specific instance as quickly as possible.

Practical thoughts:

You will present for five (5) minutes.

Prepare an outline and print enough copies for everyone in class (30 copies).

Please include on the handout any additional information that is useful but adjunct to your main presentation topic.

Practice speaking aloud before you present in class. Rehearsal helps.

Where possible, supplement your presentation with visual, tactile or audio research.