

## SYMPOSIUM 2009

ENGLISH 521  
MID-TERM

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## WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM?

PEOPLE (USUALLY EXPERTS IN A FIELD) GATHER IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE TO SHARE INFORMATION OR POINTS OF VIEW ON SELECTED TOPICS (AN ACADEMIC CONFERENCE).

THEY ARE LIVELY, WITH EXPERTS CHALLENGING, INTERRUPTING, AND JOKING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

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## SYMPOSIUM CHARACTERISTICS

- ◉ INFORMATIVE
- ◉ ENTERTAINING
- ◉ USUALLY THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE
- ◉ ENGAGED AUDIENCE
- ◉ QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
- ◉ RESPECTFUL
- ◉ INFORMAL AND RELAXED

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## AS AN EXPERT:

- YOU MUST BE AN EXPERT ON PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE TOPIC BEING DISCUSSED.
- THIS REQUIRES LOTS OF RESEARCH AND READING/PLANNING!
- BE OPEN TO VIEWPOINTS AND EVIDENCE OF OTHER SPEAKERS.
- YOU MAY ALSO REFUTE/SUPPORT THE CLAIMS OF OTHER SPEAKERS DURING THE DISCUSSION, BUT MUST BACK UP YOUR CLAIMS WITH SOLID RESEARCH!

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## HOW A SYMPOSIUM IS COMPLETED

BASICALLY, GET UP IN FRONT OF THE CLASS AND START TALKING!

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## RESEARCH!

- TAKE TIME TO RESEARCH YOUR TOPIC THOROUGHLY.
- SHARE YOUR RESEARCH WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM GROUP. WHY?
- NO REPETITION!
- MORE INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS.
- BETTER BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY THE AUDIENCE.

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## TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD...

- THERE ARE TWO BASIC METHODS OF PRESENTING A SYMPOSIUM:

- 1 THREE PEOPLE PRESENT DIFFERENT, SOMEWHAT UNRELATED TOPICS UNDER A BROAD THEME, OR
- 2 THREE PEOPLE DIVIDE A MAJOR TOPIC THREE WAYS AND EACH PERSON PRESENTS HIS/HER FINDINGS.

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## DIVISION OF RESEARCH!

- DIVIDE THE RESEARCH MATERIAL EQUALLY BETWEEN EXPERTS.
- IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF TOPICS SHOULD BE COVERED.
- FOR THIS SYMPOSIUM, WE WILL EXPLORE 3 FACETS OF EACH TOPIC (IF IT IS A SHARED TOPIC).

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## OBSERVE & REACT!

- OBSERVE THE REACTIONS OF YOUR AUDIENCE. FACIAL EXPRESSIONS AND BODY LANGUAGE WILL TELL YOU IF YOUR ARGUMENTS ARE WORKING.
- AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE, ASK QUESTIONS/MAKE COMMENTS WHEN THE EXPERTS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR DISCUSSIONS. GOOD EXPERTS WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETENTLY RESPOND TO QUESTIONS BASED ON THE MATERIAL PRESENTED.

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## SOME PARTICULARS

HOW OUR ENGLISH 521 SYMPOSIUM  
PRESENTATIONS SHALL WORK:

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## OUR SYMPOSIUM:

- COFFIN WILL CHOOSE THE GROUPS.
- WORTH 10% OF YOUR OVERALL ENGLISH GRADE.
- EVERYONE MUST PARTICIPATE.
- WE WILL STICK TO A STRICT 20-MINUTE TIME FRAME, INCLUDING TIME FOR QUESTIONS.
- EACH EXPERT MUST PREPARE HIS/HER OWN MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION TO ACCOMPANY THE SYMPOSIUM. IT MUST BE SUBMITTED THE DAY PRIOR TO MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS
- RESEARCH IS A MAJOR PART OF THIS ACTIVITY – AND YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT IT (ON INDEX CARDS) ON SYMPOSIUM DAY!
- THERE WILL BE AN ASSESSMENT RUBRIC, AS WELL AS SELF-ASSESSMENT AND PEER ASSESSMENT.
- ASKING QUESTIONS WILL BE PART OF YOUR ASSESSMENT.
- STUDENTS CHOOSE TOPICS WITH COFFIN-APPROVAL.
- ALL INDEX CARDS, GOOD COPIES OF SPEECHES, AND REFERENCES MUST BE SUBMITTED TO COFFIN ON THE PRESENTATION DAY.

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## OUR SYMPOSIUM:

- STUDENTS MUST PREPARE A FOUR TO FIVE-MINUTE SPEECH.
- EVERYONE MUST ADMINISTER HIS/HER OWN MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION.
- IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REHEARSE SPEECHES PRIOR TO SYMPOSIUM DAY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE UNFAMILIAR TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS.
- EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASKING THREE QUESTIONS DURING THE ENTIRE SYMPOSIUM EXPERIENCE. ASKING THREE QUESTIONS OF SEVENTEEN OTHER PRESENTERS SHOULD BE PRETTY EASY.
- YOU MAY ASK QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN SYMPOSIUM GROUP IF YOU WISH.
- FEEL FREE TO INTERJECT DURING THE SPEECHES OF OTHERS, BUT DO IT RESPECTFULLY AND WITH PURPOSE. HUMOR IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED, SO DON'T BE RUDE.
- EACH GROUP MUST CHOOSE A SYMPOSIUM LEADER FROM THE THREE MEMBERS. HE/SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING THE ORDER OF SPEAKING, THE Q AND A SESSION, AND IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING A TEAM-CREATED BACKGROUND PARAGRAPH AND SUMMARY STATEMENT IS WRITTEN BY THE ENTIRE GROUP.

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