

GEO 317: Geography of East Asia

Guidelines for Current Events Presentation and Position Papers

OVERVIEW

The current events presentation and position paper is designed to provide you with an opportunity to (1) analyze an issue(s) of current importance to East Asia; (2) brief the class on the issue and engage your colleagues in discussion about it; and (3) explore your thoughts about it in more detail via a short discussion paper.

Each of you will be paired with a classmate and both of you will make a short presentation and hand in your position paper on your assigned date. You and your partner do NOT need to discuss / write about the same issue. However, you should coordinate to some degree so that you what each other is doing (i.e., so you don't present the same material).

PRESENTATION

Here we are looking for a 5-10 minute discussion of the issue / topic you read about. You will want to discuss why the issue is important for East Asia (or a specific country/city etc.) and also how/why people in other regions of the world might be interested in or impacted by the story. If possible try to engage the rest of the class by asking leading questions.

POSITION PAPER

In your position paper you will be writing about and adding detail to the same issues you presented to the class. The paper should be:

- Typed, 1.5 spaced in a conservative font like <Calibri>, <Times New Roman>, <Arial> or something similar. The point is: don't use goofy fonts like <Comic>, <Firdi> or many of the others that come with your word processing program that are difficult to read and unsuitable for a professional paper.
- No longer than 3 typed pages. You may add one additional page to list your sources of information as well as a cover page (with your name, signature, etc.).
- DON'T use a report cover. Staple your work – your work will not be accepted if it is not stapled.

In your position paper you should do three things: (1) Discuss the basics of the issues(s) you are interested in. (2) Do a little background work and find some additional sources of information to allow you to add some depth to the issues and your arguments. (3) Make sure to provide your opinions and your take on the issues. Why are they interesting and important?

As mentioned above, please add an additional bibliographic page that lists the sources you used.