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Get Help

Information about Your Presentation & Final Paper below is the same information you already saw in Module 10.

Find one scholarly article in the Bierce Library data base of scholarly articles called **Academic Search Complete**.

A

Academic Search Complete

Multi-disciplinary source for scholarly, popular, professional, and news publications. This is a good place to start many searches or to gather material from various disciplines at once.

[more...](#)

Find an article about one idea, a topic, we have covered in the class (see list of ideas/topics below) that you want to learn more about. You will present on the article you select and your presentation will be your summary of the central argument and your most thoughtful response to that argument.

Details (time limits etc) will be discussed in class.

Final Paper

Write a 5-7 page, double-spaced, paper responding to the following prompt and **using the article you found and as much course material as possible** to explain and defend your response.

The research required for this paper is limited: the assignment here is to engage with course texts, building on class discussions, integrating the one scholarly article you found (and presented on) through Academic Search Complete at Bierce Library.

Please be sure to use these REQUIRED subheadings to organize your paper:

1. *Introduction (about half to 1 page)*
2. *The One Idea is...(about 1 page)*
3. *This Idea is Important because...(about 2-3 pages)*
4. *Final Thoughts (about half to 1 page)*

Prompt: Imagine you are explaining to a favorite Aunt or Uncle, Grandmother or Grandfather, the one most important idea you learned in this course. **Just one.** No matter which one idea you choose, be sure to describe and analyze it with thoughtful and serious reference to the article you found, deep and detailed reference to both Schattschneider & *Getting To Yes* (our two core texts) and contributing references to at least two other course texts (DFW, Jay Smooth, Cornell West & Tupac, DOJ, Christie).

One common question: where does my summary of my article go in this framework? Good question. It depends. If you chose your article because it helps you better understand your one idea, the summary likely goes into section 2 when you are explaining the idea. If you chose your article because it helps you better see the importance of your one idea, your summary likely goes into section 3. In most cases, something from the central argument/findings (main point) of your article will likely go into both sections 2 and 3.

Select Your One Idea From This List (or speak to me early):

- The struggle over scope & salience is the basic pattern of all politics.
- Disputants (political actors/elites) struggle with each other to try to amplify (publicize/socialize) some conflicts and mute (privatize) other conflicts, because this is expected to impact the outcome of conflicts/politics in predictable ways.
- There are three types of conflict displacement (the core tactic used to win the struggle over scope & salience) and these are agenda-setting, reframing, and ‘whose game?’
- As we have seen in GTY, GW and S, conflicts always play out on multiple levels and seeing this is an important component of learning to see the strategic dimension to politics and conflict transformation.
- Engaging in the conflicts of our era (paying attention to politics) is a central right & responsibility (and challenge) of democratic citizenship as captured in the phrase from GW ‘the conflict is the crucible.’
- Learning to separate persons from problems, so we can address each more productively, reframing the conversation around attacking the problem and not the person, and seeing this as a critically important leadership, political, and conflict transformation skill.
- Learning to reframe from positions to (potentially shared) underlying interests or concerns is a critically important leadership, political, and conflict transformation skill.
- “The most important thing about any democratic regime is the way in which it uses and exploits popular sovereignty, what questions it refers to the public for decision or guidance, how it refers them to the public, and how the alternatives are defined.... The unforgivable sin of democratic politics is to dissipate the power of the public by putting it to trivial uses (137).”
- “What happens in politics depends on the way in which people are divided.... The outcome of the game of politics depends on which of a multitude of possible conflicts gains the dominant position (60).”
- "In politics as in everything else it makes a great difference whose game we play. The rules of the game determine the requirements for success. Resources sufficient for success in one game may be wholly inadequate in another. These considerations go to the heart of political strategy (47)."

If you want to propose your own ‘one idea’ to me you need to do this and secure my approval before your presentation.

Once you have settled on your one idea, found and presented on your one article about that idea, then your final papers requires...

Explain what the idea (section #2) clearly and concisely. "My one idea is...." The key here is to be clear and focused only explaining on your one idea.

Explain why this one idea strikes you as important in the real world (section #3). You are expected to do this in a way that (1) demonstrates that you understand the texts we read all term and the complexity of the ideas we have examined, (2) demonstrates your capacity to *use* the key concepts here to better understand and act effectively in the world we live in, and (3) demonstrates that you can do all of this using clear language that your audience (Aunt or Uncle or Grandparent) will easily understand.

After you have completed sections 2 and 3, then you finalize your Introduction in section one, because only now do you actually know what your argument is, and you summarize that argument in your Introduction in a way that persuades a reader that they want to read your argument, that it matters.

Then turn to your conclusion in section #4...

In section #4 first explain what you learned by writing this paper and then share your final thoughts on the idea, paper, class, whatever has become salient in your mind when you think about your experience in this class or the material we engaged with.

And have fun, explore your own thinking, push yourself to see just how persuasively you can explain and defend a complex idea.

Presentation and Final Paper

YOU ARE FREE TO SELECT ONE ARTICLE OR BOOK FROM THIS LIST

“Oven Bird’s Song: Insiders, Outsiders, and Personal Injuries in an American Community,” David Engel. *Law & Society Review* v18n4 (1984), pp. 551-582.

“Why the ‘Haves’ Come Out Ahead: Speculation on the Limits of Legal Change,” Marc Galanter. *Law & Society Review* v9n1 (1974), pp. 95-160 (but only need to read the first 20 pages for this assignment).

“Misperceptions, the Media, and the Iraq War,” Kull et al. *Political Science Quarterly* v118n4 (Winter, 2003/4), pp. 569-598.

“Executing Hortons: Racial Crime in the 1988 Presidential Campaign,” Tali Mendelberg. *Public Opinion Quarterly* v61 (1997), pp. 134-157.

Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High, Patterson et al.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, Michelle Alexander

Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America, Fiorina et al.

The Culture of Fear: Why Americans are Afraid of the Wrong Things, Barry Glassner.

Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture, Juliette Schor.



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