

Presentations on a Primary Source

You'll make two short presentations in class on one of the primary source excerpts assigned as class readings, one in the first half of the semester and one in the second half.

Your presentation will give the class your perspective on (a) what this reading means, (b) the author's perspective on the topics, and (c) how it relates to the material being discussed in the course.

Sign-ups. Sign up for the first of these presentations on the Sign-up #1 page, and the second on the Sign-up #2 page. Your presentation will be given the day that reading is assigned on the schedule.

Write-ups. A 2-to-3 page written version is due by the next class meeting after your presentation.

Presentation Write-Up

The assignment: For each of your two presentations on sources from the assigned readings, write a 2- to 3-page essay that summarizes and interprets what the reading tells us.

Your write-up should include the following:

- **Brief summary.** Describe what the document says and, more importantly, what the author is trying to say about the subject at hand.
- **Analysis.**
 - Identify and discuss what you believe is the author's interpretation, bias, and point of view and how it affected the author's treatment of the topic. Give examples from the document that illustrate your assessment of the author's spin.
 - Provide perspective by relating the material in the document, and the author's bias on it, to the bigger picture—the material being discussed in class.

The main point of the presentation and the write-up is NOT to summarize the reading. Summary should be less than 25% of your presentation and your write-up. The main point is to analyze the reading and talk about what it means and what it tells us about that place and time in ancient history.

Your write-up needs to be posted to BlackBoard before the next class meeting after you present in class. In this final version of the write-up you can incorporate ideas and reactions that came up during the in-class discussion that followed the presentation.