

Engl 96IQ, Fall 2009: Board Games (MUSE)  
Class Presentation

Speaking publicly is a really important skill, for success in your classes and, later, in your career. For some people, it is a difficult competency to master, while others will feel immediately comfortable in front of a group. So that you can experience public speaking early, and make whatever adaptations you might need, you will be making a ten-minute presentation to the class about an assigned board game. The schedule of presentations is at the bottom of this page.

In preparing your presentation, give some time and consideration both to the contents and to the format. Do not simply print out information from the web and then present it as your own – a favorite method of making presentations in high school, but considered plagiarism at this level. Instead, express the information you want to present in a way that you think is effective and comfortable, and then consider how best to make notes that will remind you of what you want to say. Simply writing out the information is usually not a good idea – you often end up simply reading it out, and boring your audience, or losing your place, and confusing them. So, while I am not stipulating a specific form for your notes, I am suggesting you try to choose a form that you can use to speak (but not read) to the class fluently; and I am also requiring that you hand those notes in after your presentation.

You can choose almost anything related to your game as the subject of your presentation, but remember that you should be presenting information that goes well beyond the rules, appearance, and brief history of the game that we get in Botermans and some of the additional readings. You might want to talk about customs in a society connected with the game, or go into greater depth about its origins, or discuss how that game is different in some significant ways from others we have encountered, and why. You will need to do some research, and use multiple sources; remember that web pages often contain false or unreliable information. Your sources must be listed at the end of the notes you hand in, and you should put those sources in either MLA or APA style (one or the other). You won't be graded on the bibliographic format this time, so it will be a good chance for you to try your hand at getting that right.

Remember, the goal of a class presentation is first and foremost to be informative, and also to be interesting. Good luck, and let me know if you have any questions.

Schedule:

Sept. 24, Marovich: Backgammon  
Sept. 24, Libby: Tabula  
Sept. 24, Miller: Coan Ki  
Sept. 24, Kearns: Nardshir  
Oct. 1, Morikodt: Mancala  
Oct. 6, Kaufmann: Mancala  
Oct. 8, Hang: Nine Men's Morris  
Oct. 13, Pang: Tafl  
Oct. 15, Green: Alquerque  
Oct. 15, Piry: Fanorana  
Oct. 15, Faria: Jinx  
Oct. 20, Proctor: Checkers  
Oct. 20, Dao: Chinese Checkers  
Oct. 29, Rockwell: Shogi  
Nov. 5, Coh: Hex  
Nov. 10, Trinh: Hasami Shogi  
Nov. 10, Ullman: Othello  
Nov. 12, Bonilla: Go