

History 217 Modern Brazil
Brazilian History & Culture Blog Post

Name:

Each student will compose a thoughtful blog post analyzing a recent (past 6 months) news article on Brazilian history or culture, and placing the topic in historical perspective. The best blog posts will: demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the article presented; analyze the article's arguments, uses of evidence, and wider implications; consider how the article depicts Brazil & its peoples; demonstrate critical thinking skills in their analysis of the topic's links to the wider course themes; encourage a discussion of the diversities of cultures and the varieties of historical experience; and employ effective oral communication skills in their brief oral presentations and audience Q&A.

Criteria for Evaluation

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Comments
Article Summary	Summary shows some significant gaps in understanding or misplaced emphasis.	Summary demonstrates a general understanding of the article; may show evidence of some gaps in comprehension OR too much undigested summary.	Clear, focused summary that demonstrates a good understanding of the readings, & which points are most significant for class discussion.	Thorough, thoughtful understanding of the reading. Summary shows a depth of insight & careful preparation.	
Article Critique: argument, use of evidence, implications	Critique needs more work; topic covered inadequately.	Some good points, but may need more in-depth analysis to effectively cover the topic.	Very good consideration of the author's argument, use of evidence, & broader implications.	Insightful, appropriate, & in-depth analysis which incorporates a thorough & useful critique.	
Analysis of Media Coverage of Brazil	Descriptive comments about media depictions of Brazil.	Some consideration about author POV & depictions of Brazil.	Good consideration of how author POV relates to larger trends in coverage of Brazilian topics.	Student considers multiple perspectives in their post, incorporating a strong analysis of author POV & how it shapes coverage.	
Links to Course Themes	Broad assessment or judgment based on unsubstantiated opinions.	General assessment that could be strengthened by specific examples.	Persuasive assessment well supported by specific examples. Clear links to course themes.	Multifaceted, compelling analysis making links to larger context. Insightful links to course themes.	
Written Communication	Communication of ideas undermined by writing issues.	Some writing issues that undermine communication or make the post less effective.	Good writing, logical organization. Uses images/links. No (or minor) grammatical errors).	Elegant writing. Skillful incorporation of digital images/links. No grammatical errors.	
In-Class Presentation	Student seems not to have thought about how to effectively present their information.	Main points are easy to follow, but presentation has issues with volume / pacing/ structure.	Clear, well organized presentation that highlights key points of the topic & engages audience.	Excellent, engaging presentation. Effective public speaking skills.	

Comments