Instructions for Five-Minute Oral Presentations

To the student doing the presentation:

Type A Presentation (Free Topic): For about two weeks before the date of your oral presentation, you are to follow a topic of your choice (politics, music, literature, film, etc.) in at least two different Spanish-language on-line newspapers from countries other than the U.S.A. You are particularly encouraged to follow not just news on the topic, but especially opinion pieces (editorials, cartoons). It would be especially effective if you could find dissenting opinions from, for example, both conservative and progressive on-line newspapers. You will find two portals to a variety of on-line newspapers from Spanish-speaking countries in the “External Links” section of Blackboard. Alternatively, copy and paste the following URLs to your browser’s URL window:

Centro Virtual Cervantes (Journals, Magazines, Radio Stations in Spanish)

University of Texas, Latin American News Sources (by country)
http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/indexesp.html

Topics may include but are not limited to the perception of the U.S.A. in the Hispanic world; particular political events that affect Hispanic countries (e.g., elections, free trade, guerrilla attacks, labor strikes, political demonstrations and protests); the U.S. presence in Iraq and how different Spanish-language newspapers respond to it; the Hispanic press’s coverage of a particular musician or band’s tour abroad; the reception of U.S. music or films in Spanish-speaking countries; etc.

Three days before your class presentation, you should e-mail the professor the URL for at least four web links to opinion pieces and news that you find particularly important or salient to understanding the topic that you will present in class. The professor will load these links on to Blackboard>External Links>Student Oral Presentations to make them available to all your classmates before your oral presentation.

In class, you will present a brief summary—five minutes sharp: no more, no less—of what you have learned in your two-week follow up. The oral presentation should generally respond to the following questions:

- What topic have you chosen and why?
- What are the most controversial aspects of this topic and why?
- Which on-line news sources have you been following?
- What are each journal’s attitudes towards the topic you have been following?
- What ideological or political tendencies do each of these journals represent? (This will be particularly obvious in their opinion sections.)
- What has surprised you the most about how each journal has reported on the topic? Why?

[In computer-mediated classrooms with Internet connections, the student should refer to specific aspects of the web pages during the actual presentation]
You should practice delivering your oral presentation before coming to class: our Spanish tutors (in MB 204; see schedule on Blackboard) are available to listen to you practice. You should also feel free to come to my office hours to ask particular questions about vocabulary and pronunciation. I particularly encourage you to check periodically with me about grammatical correctness as you prepare your presentation.

You may use flash cards to aid you, but under no circumstances should you read your presentation verbatim from a piece of paper. One of the important goals of this activity is for you to practice your spoken Spanish in a formal setting. Remember, it is JUST a 5-minute presentation on a topic you enjoy.

The professor will subtly indicate to you when you are running out of time by flashing first a card with the number 1 on it, to indicate that you have 1 minute left; then, she will flash another card with the number 30 on it, to warn you that you only have 30 seconds left and that you should wrap up your presentation.

After your presentation, your classmates and the professor will ask you specific questions on the topic and the links you provided.

Type B Presentation (Pre-Assigned Topic): The professor will assign a specific topic and you should find at least two useful pages in the web about it. Just as in Type A presentations, you should talk about the topic and the web links you found for 5 minutes only.

In both types of presentation, your grade will be calculated thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and interest of content</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity of expression and exposition</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To the rest of the students listening to the presentation:
Three days before each oral presentation, you will have access on Blackboard>External Links>Student Oral Presentations to several web links provided by one of your classmates. Peruse these links and prepare at least one question you would like to ask of your classmate who will give the oral presentation. You will receive a cumulative participation grade according to the quality and thoughtfulness of your questions.