

## Guidelines for Presentations

1. Your presentation should serve as an informed overview of the topic at hand and should last ten to fifteen minutes. You should also be prepared to answer questions from me and from the class. One of my questions will be for you to describe your methods in researching the topic.
2. You will need to prepare a handout that defines key terms and serves as an outline for the class.
3. You may also employ a visual aid or any other appropriate props.
4. Your outline must include a bibliography. You may list (and use) only one source from the Internet.

## How to Conduct Research for Your Presentation

1. Begin with the West Virginia University library's "Appalachian Studies Bibliography" at <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/appalachian/bibliography.htm>. It covers the years 1994 to 2003 and is organized by subject. Odds are that you can find something useful here. Another good resource is the Appalachian Studies page at Berea College: <http://www.berea.edu/hutchinslibrary/subjectguides/app.asp>. This page has a number of links, but they won't help if you don't follow them.
2. Do a Web search. The Internet is great for finding out a lot of general information in a short period of time. It will not be adequate for the type of research you will have to do, however. Use Google to find out what you need to look for in the library. Do not rely on *Wikipedia* as a source under any circumstances.
3. Do a keyword search in the library catalog. (If you don't know how to use the online catalog, go to <http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/engcomp> for a tutorial.)
4. Once you have found a few books that seem to fit your needs, go to the stacks and look through them. Examine the table of contents and the index; browse through each book to get an idea about the scope of its coverage. Then look at the books on the same shelf. Often you can find a better book on the same subject. When you find a book that has the information you are looking for, check it out and read the relevant portions. Also, make sure that you read the footnotes or endnotes; they will often lead you to exactly what you need.
5. You can access a number of online databases from the library's homepage to find journal, magazine, and newspaper articles. *JSTOR* and *Project Muse* are your best bets for scholarly articles. *Academic Search Premier*, *American Humanities Index*, and *America: History & Life* are also useful. Your topic may require a focused search in a specific database, though, or the information may not be online. In that case, you had better hope that you have started early enough that you can explore other options.