# HIS 100 Multimedia Presentation Planning Worksheet

## Part 1: Brainstorming

Instructions: Brainstorm your thoughts on each question in preparation for creating an outline of your multimedia presentation, including specific examples as appropriate.

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| **State three historical lenses that could be applied to your topic and explain how each lens can be applied.** | **Describe how one of the lenses you just identified might change how you approach researching your topic, thus affecting the historical narrative.** | **Discuss the conclusions you can draw from thinking about how history is told. Consider how historians are persuaded by their own biases, motivations, and influences of their time.** | **Describe how your research of a historical topic can help you understand contemporary issues in our lives, and try to list at least two related contemporary issues** | **After taking this course, what is your opinion about the statement “history repeats itself”? Do you think this is accurate? What information from the course guides you to this conclusion?** | **Discuss your obligation as a citizen of your society to understand the history behind issues that impact you every day. (Note that this does not specifically have to relate to your topic).** |
| Political Lens – What did Mao stand to gain by controlling the media?  Social Lens – In what ways does this control affect the daily lives of China’s citizens?  Economic Lens – Could the goal of controlling the media be the positive effect it would have on China’s world economy? | It’s easy to think about politics when viewing this from the social lens, which is what I’ve mainly focused on, because of the poor living conditions of China’s people during Mao’s rule.  But viewing this control through a strictly political lens could give even more insight to the dichotomy in the narrative surrounding Mao. What did other countries think about China? Did the Soviet Union also have a hand in China’s image to the rest of the world regarding it’s leadership? | A historian plays a very important role in communicating history to others. Buy and large I believe that many of us give implicit trust to historians because we believe that since they did the research, they must have done it well and in an un-biased manner.  Historians are, however, just people and people have biases. People are also products of the environment in which they exist and this can further influence writing.  We must consider the source when making a decision on the subject. It’s wise to be skeptical! | History is important because history is the story of people. Many of the issues we face today have been faced by other societies previously.  My current research topic (Chinese media control during Mao’s rule) can be referred to today where China still implements media control.  Even in today’s political climate. We hear much talk about “fake news” or on topics regarding political interference via social engineering. In many ways this can be considered censorship (maybe via obfuscation) as well. Have people ever experienced a similar situation? | I think in many ways history has the potential to repeat itself. I can only speak for myself but I know that I am pretty uneducated when it comes to history and I could definitely see myself adopting an opinion on something solely based on what those close to me are saying when I may have had a different opinion based in fact had I known my history. And I think is probably happens a lot in our societies.  I enjoyed that much of this course was about the importance of history instead of just research about a historical subject. This gave me the ability to look at history from a different perspective. A more human perspective that allowed me think critically about the way I consider my facts! | We live in a world where we are expected to make decisions that impact future generations. Our governments, for example, are one institution of this. We vote/don’t vote, we speak/don’t speak, we spend/don’t spend. The ways in which we do this should be affected by the events that have happened in our past so we can make the future better for the proceeding generations. |

## Part 2: Outline

Instructions: Create a plan for your presentation. You will need to create 10 to 12 slides that respond to the critical elements in the Project 3 Rubric. (If you are using Microsoft Word, your multimedia presentation should be 4 to 5 pages long.) The slide title suggestions are provided to help you develop your presentation. The field for slide text is a place for you to develop your ideas for your presentation’s content, drawing from Part 1. The field for slide visuals and audio ideas is a place to develop ideas for visuals and audio elements that can enhance your presentation and engage your audience. As you develop your ideas, you are encouraged to provide details as to how you will use these elements to engage your audience.

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| **Slide Title** | **Slide Text** | **Slide Visuals and Audio Ideas** |
| **Historical Lenses and History’s Value** | Do we need history? History is just about days past, outdated ideas that have already been improved upon, dead people. What’s the point?  History is important because it shows us how we got to where we are today and ways to solve issues that affected our ancestors in the same way they affect us today. | **Transitions throughout to guide the presentation and talking points** |
| **My Topic** | The narrative that surrounds Mao Zedong varies wildly dependent on who is being asked. Sometimes he is revered as a legend who created the economic powerhouse that China is today. Others label him as cruel and inhumane. Why does this dichotomy exist? | **Picture of Mao to put a face to a name** |
| **Three Historical Lenses** | To explore this topic, we will examine Mao’s rule using 3 different lenses to give us a complete picture of society, economy, and political climate at that time. | **Magnifying glass maybe? Lenses?** |
| **Lens 1 – Social Lens** | Before Mao took control of China, its people lived in a class system which bore the long-standing traditions that Chinese feudalism cast upon it. Mao believed that this was oppressive and aimed to erase class and make every person of equal social status in line with Communist ideals. | **Photo of society during Mao’s rule** |
| **Lens 2 – Political Lens** | In the realm of politics, Mao was motivated to turn China into a world power. Previously, the country was viewed as weak by the more developed nations. | **Show big political players in the 60s** |
| **Lens 3 – Economic Lens** | From the beginning of Mao’s rule and into the 60s, the economy of China suffered greatly. Pestilence, hunger, cannibalism, and death ravaged the country. Dissenters to Mao were often executed.  Beyond these days, however, Mao made use of China’s resources and it soon because a leader in agriculture and manufacturing. | **Two pictures. One of technological achievement, the other of poor Chinese people in the 60s to show how both of these things were happening simutaneously** |
| **Conclusions** | From a human vantage point, taking on the dangerous ideology of erasing class is a very noble and kind thing to do. People are inherently equal and the only power any of us have is the varying amounts of social power that we are born into via our societal institutions. One of Mao’s main directives was to spread this ideology.  Making China a world power would be more difficult for Mao had the world opinion of China been poor. Controlling narrative meant outsiders would hear only what Mao wanted them to hear.  Especially as Mao’s own people were cannibalizing each other to survive, disease-riddled, or dying. For Mao’s power to be realized, this could not be the idea people had of China. |  |
| **Our Lives** | Today we see much of the same behavior from China. We see implementations such as the “Great Firewall” and state control of the media outlets.  My goal isn’t to be a dissenter against China’s way of life. It’s different from more democratic approaches, but it’s not necessarily wrong.  I do believe it is important to understand other ways of life, however, and also be aware of why those societies are structured in the ways that they are. If you do not agree with China’s way of life, but you are knowledgeable about how they got there, you are prepared against threats to your own way of life as best as you can be. | **World flags?** |
| **Does History Repeat Itself? (My Opinion)** | I believe history does repeat itself to some degree, but we also experience new things as humans every day. The saying is “If you don’t know your history, you are doomed to repeat it”, and that much, at least, is true. Any antithesis to any ideology will continue to antagonize in the same ways until its methods are challenged. The methods cannot be challenged unless people are educated. | **Repeat symbol** |
| **Are Citizens Obligated to Know History?** | I would say that a citizen in pursuit of being a responsible advocate for their society are obligated to know history. A good advocate cannot be good without this knowledge. The past not only brought us here to where we stand today, but also can help solve, or give better perspective, about many of the issues we face as humans. | **Studious person** |