

SOURCES WORKSHOP: French Component and Oral Presentation (10%)
The French Revolution

Introduction:

This assignment will give students an opportunity to engage directly with a particular moment in the history of western civilization – the period of the French Revolution (1789 – 1799). This was a time in which concepts of freedom, liberty, and equality were discussed and debated at all levels of society, with an intensity not seen in previous eras. A series of revolutions and wars in Europe and North America openly challenged the old order of monarchies and aristocracies, and would usher in a new world of modern politics in the nineteenth century.

In this workshop, students will be assigned to a group with a particular identity, or role, in the French Revolution. The groups are:

1. Jacobins
2. The Crowd (Sans-culottes)
3. Nobility
4. Women
5. Colonial Interests (Saint-Domingue)

Groups will read about the events of the French Revolution, and also read about their role in advance, and then participate in a workshop where we, as a class, will re-enact a fictional session of the National Assembly in the early 1790s. Groups will present their position, desires, and hopes for the future of France (in character!)

French Component (5%):

1. Review text, *MacKay Volume II*, pp. 584 – 605
2. Read the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (which has been uploaded in English and French Versions on Lea)
3. Read the Role Sheet, which includes primary source material, for your group's role.
4. After having read all of these documents, you will write a summary of your group's outlook on the Revolution (apx. 300 words). The summary will include three quotations (one from each of the readings), including one from the *Declaration of the Rights of Man* **in the original French**. This summary is due the day you come back from reading week and will be graded as the French Component (5%). Writing style, including grammar, is taken into consideration for your grade.

Workshop Presentation (5%):

1. You will have an entire class session to meet with your group to create a short presentation (10 minutes max.) that clearly outlines your group's position, demands, etc. Each student must speak – you can be as creative as you like!
2. After the presentations, the groups will have a chance to respond to each other's demands.
3. Your team will be given **one** grade (worth 5%) as a group. The more prepared and in character your team is in the mock assembly, the better you will do.

After the Workshop:

1. As an in-class academic skills assignment, each individual student will write a reflection on their thoughts, opinions, and general comments about the French Revolution. Students may reflect on the historical significance of the French Revolution, the role of the various interests, the impact of concepts such as liberty and equality on society, etc.
2. The work you are completing for the French component and Oral Presentation is designed to help you prepare for the essay you will write later in the semester (due the third week of April). You will hear more details about the essay when you come back from the break.