

Humi 9- Ritual Presentation Guidelines

Requirements

Your group will prepare a 15- minute presentation for the class (date is listed on the syllabus) using the research you have gathered about your ritual or festival. Your presentation is worth **60 points**.

Your presentation should answer the following questions:

Identity/Relationships

Are there any boundary questions raised and answered by this ritual/festival? What does this ritual/festival tell the believer about his/her identity: selfhood, meaning, purpose? Does this ritual/festival tell the believer anything about their relationships to "the other"? Read over your class notes and Dimensions download for ideas and relate those to this ritual/festival.

1. Experiential

What would it mean for this worldview to experience the sacred? Are they looking for the "presence of God?" Or the "experience of the Holy" Or is their goal to be "one with the universe"? Analyze what would the sacred feel like for the participants of this ritual/festival.

2. Mythic

What are the narrative story or stories upon which the rituals are based? Are there any myths about the origin of the event itself? Relate at least one complete version of a major myth. During the ritual(s) does the religious leader refer to any paradigm-laden stories that answers boundary questions? In a non-religious event, are there references to great heroes, tradition, or important past events? Are there references to key persons or events in the past that generate the activities you are witnessing in the present?

3. Ritual

Describe what the participants or celebrants do during the service, event, and/or festival. What are the ritual order of words and actions or the order of events in the ritual/festival? What kinds of symbolic activity can you identify? How often is the ritual activity or festival repeated? Is it a rite of passage/lifestyle ritual or one that is part of a regular yearly cycle?

4. Doctrinal

What does this ritual/festival tell us about what the participants believe? What are the major beliefs that are unique to the worldview and define this group and show up in this ritual/festival? By looking at the parts to this ritual/festival are there any recurring themes of belief?

5. Ethical

Try to identify some key moral ethical demands that are made on the participants. How should they prepare for this ritual/festival? How should they act during the ritual/festival? Is this ritual/festival aimed at guiding your ethical behavior after it is completed? Is there a pattern of obligation, responsibility, dissonance and harmony in the ritual/festival?

6. Social

What impact does this ritual/festival have or hope to have on the group that performs it and/or the world at large? Does it affect a lot of people or just a few? After participating in this ritual/festival are the believers hoping to act a certain way? What actions in the ritual/festival indicate the intended impact?

Most Sacred Physical Symbol & Sacred Concept

Remember that the symbol is usually a physical object and the concept is an idea. The ritual/festival will usually have a physical symbol and a separate concept that stand out over all others. Try and figure out how these guide the believer to what is thought most sacred.

Five Other Important Symbols

Pick out five other symbols that appear in this ritual/festival. (Don't give me generic symbols that are in the religion but don't appear in this ritual/festival.) Where do these symbols appear in the ritual/festival? Is there any special significance to when and how the symbol shows up? Analyze why you think they are important in the ritual/festival and how they help the believers experience the sacred. What special meaning do they each have for the believers?

Handout

All presentations must include a handout sheet for students and two test questions that are answered by your handout.

Peer Evaluation

Each group member will evaluate the performance of every other member of the group. You will receive an evaluation sheet that you will hand in the day of the presentation. The following are the criteria upon which your peers will judge your performance:

1. Contributed to the group by communicating ideas and information.
2. Obviously had done research on assigned topic that enhanced the creation of the group presentation.
3. Was available for team meetings

On a scale of 1 - 10, I rate this person a:

1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4 4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9 9.5 10

Instructor Evaluation

Your presentation will be judged on the following criteria:

Does the presentation get the information across in a logical and understandable way?

Does the presentation clearly answer the questions required?

Are there creative and original aspects that enhance the presentation?

Presentation Evaluation Criteria	
Topic explained	60 Points
Identity/relationship	4
Experiential	4
Myth	4
Ritual order of actions	12
Doctrine	4
Ethics	2
Social	2
Most Sacred Symbol	2
Most Sacred Concept	2
5 other Symbols: their meaning and placement in the ritual.	(2 X 5)
Graphics , Costumes, Music, Video, Etc.	8
Handout- test question	6