

HIST 428J
Presentation Evaluations

Name: Areeb Uzzaman

Grade: A

Clarity of Argument

This was one of the most polished and well-rounded research presentations I've ever heard from an undergraduate (and better than many professors' presentations I've heard). The argument and thesis are crystal-clear. I might have asked for some more explicit gesture in the thesis slide to your primary sources, but in fact your verbal explanation of the thesis clearly showed where you were going with the argument and how primary sources would drive it. I do think that it's important to state up-front that your research concerns the roots of the liberation war and ultimate independence, since otherwise the question (which [REDACTED] did ask in Q&A) as to how much & why you address the war/genocide itself in your paper will necessarily present itself. The one other point you might be sure to address before submitting your final research paper is why socialism for East Pakistan, since this point in your presentation (alone among all of the extensive detail and argumentation) was slightly lacking in explanation/context.

Use of Evidence/Source Material

I was very impressed (and your classmates clearly were as well, the Q&A points made this clear) by your incorporation of quotations as well as your clear explanation of who all of the individuals were from whom you were quoting throughout the presentation. You did a great job contextualizing and staging the source material, and the implications especially of West Pakistan's anti-Bengali linguistic agenda really came through clearly here. You should be particularly proud of how clearly and evocatively your slides brought out your source material (with an excellent, diverse assortment of visuals).

Presentation Style

As noted above, your presentation style was absolutely superb: crystal-clear delivery, effective and well-crafted slides, ample use of well-framed evidence. The one weakness of the presentation was that it went over time, but you became cognizant of this and corrected for it quite well. Your delivery throughout the presentation was well-paced and clear; you have a very lucid delivery and narrative style. I especially enjoyed the asides where you noted the relevance of lineage research and the fact that you've discovered so many key figures in your story to have been distant relatives.

Engagement with Audience/Performance in Q&A

Your Q&A answers were very strong. I especially enjoyed your exchange with [REDACTED] regarding the promise and the pitfalls of personal involvement in a historical subject, and I thought your explanations were frank and convincing.