

**STUDENT HANDOUT:**  
**Rubric for Culminating Project**

|                                | <b>Background Research</b>                                                                               | <b>Advocating Group's Position</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Assertive Speaking Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4 points: superior</b>      | Draws on 4-5 sources; takes comprehensive notes and synthesizes them into coherent themes and arguments. | Demonstrates wide range of knowledge and clear understanding; presents a strong and persuasive overview and closing argument; presents 6 or more points, each with two or more pieces of supporting evidence; identifies allies and presents persuasive joint statement; includes a visual that supports position.                 | States ideas and opinions clearly and firmly; very well organized and easy to follow; presented in strong voice; highly engaging; involves all group participants; thoroughly responds to questions.                              |
| <b>3 points: good</b>          | Draws on 3-4 sources; takes substantial notes and clearly relates them to position.                      | Demonstrates solid understanding of the subject matter; presents a strong overview and closing argument; presents 5 or more points, each with at least one piece of supporting evidence; identifies allies and presents joint statement; includes a visual that supports position.                                                 | States ideas and opinions clearly and firmly; almost always well organized and easy to follow; good articulation; nearly always engaging; involves all or most group participants; responds to most questions thoroughly.         |
| <b>2 points: satisfactory</b>  | Draws on 2-3 sources; takes adequate notes and relates them to position.                                 | Demonstrates basic familiarity with subject matter; presents unfocused overview and closing argument; presents 3-4 points, each with at least one piece of supporting evidence; identifies allies and presents joint statement that is of little relevance to position; includes a visual that does not properly support position. | Usually states ideas and opinions clearly and firmly; occasionally disorganized and hard to follow; adequate articulation; moderately engaging; involves at least half of group participants; often responds poorly to questions. |
| <b>1 point: unsatisfactory</b> | Draws on 1-2 sources; takes sparse and sketchy notes and does not clearly relate them to the position.   | Demonstrates little or no grasp of subject matter; presents unfocused overview and closing argument; presents 1-2 points, with little or no supporting evidence; does not identify allies or present joint statement; does not include visual or visual is inadequate.                                                             | Rambling, disorganized and very hard to follow; poor articulation; unengaging; involves few of the group participants; responds poorly to questions.                                                                              |

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