Justifying an Evaluation (Presentation on an invention, 3-5 minutes) 60 Points

**Basic features of an evaluation:**

A judgement which promotes or denounces an innovation, invention, ideology, etc.

Supporting details from credible resources (3+ annotated resources required)

Counter-argument: Anticipation of viewer’s objections and alterative judgments

**Aspects of an effective speech or presentation:**

Appropriate volume and clarity (Enunciate clearly; project naturally)

Variety of fluid, effective pacing; easy and pleasurable to follow your logic

Variety of emphasis and tone (not monotonous, but various in its sound)

Strong, conscious physicality (posture, eye contact, moving and using hands appropriately)

Limited pauses, “ums”, and other filler sounds (Avoid saying “like” as filler)

Confidence in your content; authoritative appearance

Play to a professional forum. Avoid explicit structures (e.g. “My topic is…” “Another con is…”)

Personable approach; possible use of humor (acknowledging and knowing your audience)

High energy and enthusiasm

**Questions to consider:**

Has the innovation been ultimately helpful or harmful?

What values back up your argument versus the opposing view’s values?

In theory, what does the future hold in relation to your topic?

**Process:**

 In order to evaluate your topic, you must start with a chart of pros and cons. Then you must decide whether or not the pros outweigh the cons, or vice versa. Your thesis will acknowledge both the negative and positive effects of the innovation, but will ultimately decide whether or not it has had an overall positive or negative effect. This is not the Opposing Viewpoints paper and you should not remain objective; you must decide and argue for or against a controversial topic.

When you present, submit your printed/copied, annotated research; clearly identify evidence which you have cited in your speech. It is strongly encouraged that you structure your speech and keep it fluid by referring to notecards or brief notes or outlines (whatever you are comfortable with). Do not write your entire speech word for word and read it verbatim aloud; this produces overly formalize and impersonalized presentations. Do not use your phone to read your speech.

**Topic areas to search for controversy:**

Inventions (warfare, recreation, transportation, communication)

Scientific/medical practices

Food and health products

Ideologies (i.e. democracy, free market, etc.)

Political actions (i.e. response overseas)

Artistic forms and movements

Theoretical innovations (i.e. time travel)

**Organization:**

Consider this general outline when sequencing your presentation. You might weave your “pros” and “cons” appropriately into each of the steps. This would be more effective than blatantly setting them aside in their own sections.

1. Tell why you were interested in the topic or why you think it is important
2. Introduce the controversy
3. Present your overall judgment
4. Give background information on your invention
5. Present your support and evidence\*
6. End with an insightful message about the future

\*You may weave facts and evidence from your research throughout various components of your argument. But you do not necessarily need to “cite” the source of each factual piece you present. Providing annotated research will suffice to support your evidence.

\* Specific details from evidence could sometimes be statistical; it can also be interpretive or anecdotal opinions based on facts.

**Sample Topics from previous classes**

Credit cards

Social media

Fascism

Euthanasia

Internet

Gambling and casinos

Drones

Abstract painting

Cosmetic surgery

R-rated movies

Music education

School uniforms

Alcohol

Violent sports

CGI in film

Techno music

Online dating

E-cigarettes

Online currency

Tattoos

Cursive handwriting

Hair dye

The mustache (or other fashions)

Atom bomb