

Pre-Reading for The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

In preparing to read, you will be asked to research, synthesize, and present new information. We will delve into historical Islamic world and its philosophies on a given topic in order to answer a life question.

Life Questions:

- What is the purpose of life?
- What is beauty?
- What is truth?

These are huge questions many wise men and people have tried to answer, but have not succeeded. The Muslim world is no different in their quest for these answers.

Answer demonstrated in the philosophy behind (must be Islamic world!):

- Architecture/ Art
- Islam Theology
- Poetry/ Literature
- Mathematics/ Music
- Extreme Islam Fundamentalism
- Science

In most cases, you will not find the philosophy behind these given topics, but you can look up facts about the topics and come up with a working philosophy for them. This philosophy should help you answer the three life questions.

You should have at least 3 different articles per person. Take notes on each article, and at the bottom of your notes, write in how you think this topic might have an answer to any of the three life questions. Not finding a pattern is not an option. If that is the case, you need to re-research.

Some possible websites you may use:

- <http://www.al-bab.com/Default.htm>
- http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/activity/rosen_islamic_science/
- <http://www.middleeastnews.com/intoarab101.html>
- <http://www.crescentlife.com/index.htm>
- <http://www.muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm>
- <http://www.islamicarchitecture.org/art/>

Steps we will take:

1. As individuals: KWL Muslim World and topics given
2. As a class: sample research document from internet, read, take notes, delineate possible philosophy, answer overarching questions
3. From teacher: good vs. bad website presentation
4. As a class: groups formed, topics given out, go to library to research
5. As a group: synthesize information for presentation
6. As a group: practice presentation
7. As a group: presentation

Your presentation will be on _____. Be ready to hand in all your notes, your articles, and your presentation note cards after your presentation.

KW the Muslim World

What do you already know about the Muslim world?	What do you want to know? What questions do you have about the Muslim world?

KW the topics given

What do you already know about these topics in the Muslim world: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture/ Art • Islam Theology • Poetry/ Literature • Mathematics/ Music • Extreme Islam Fundamentalism • Science 	What do you want to know? What questions come to mind about these topics in relation to the Muslim world?

EXAMPLE TOPIC: Health and Nutrition

Notes on Health and Nutrition

There are many different ways to take notes: bullets and dashes, outlines, Cornell method, etc. I personally prefer the bullets and dashes because I tend to think in paragraphs, so it is easier to organize myself. Those who are linear and more science/math oriented tend to enjoy outlining. And then there are those who can think quickly and have more thoughts while they take notes, so they may enjoy the Cornell method. Whichever way is comfortable for you is the way you will take notes.

Your articles may (and should) be longer. Your notes may (and should) be more complete.

HEALTH

<http://www.crescentlife.com/wellness/health.htm>

- greatest blessing after faith
- 2 blessings people don't appreciate: health and leisure
- health: must tell God how spent health (like money) lest be punished
 - o do whatever MDs say to be good for good health
 - o "give to each part of our bodies its due"
 - don't take on too much to wear body out
 - exercise
 - o don't do anything immoral with body

NUTRITION

<http://www.crescentlife.com/dietnutrition/nutrition.htm>

- choose wholesome food and avoid what is unwholesome
- don't abstain from eating without a good reason
- balanced diet: avoid excess, content, vegetarian food
 - o too easy to fall into trap of filling stomach badly
 - o eat less than you think you need
 - o 1/3 food, 1/3 drink, 1/3 breathing
 - o eat different types of foods: proteins, fat, carbs, salts, vitamins; esp fish
- wholemeal food preferred instead of refined flour
- wash hands before eating—cleanliness of you
- make sure food and drink are clean to not spread disease

ORAL HYGIENE

http://www.crescentlife.com/wellness/oral_hygiene.htm

- cleanliness of mouth is very important: brush teeth often (after eat, ex: after milk b/c it has fat)
- don't just use a toothpick—this just takes out dirt, but does not clean mouth
- should also brush teeth when fasting
- brush in morning, night, before prayer because it pleases God
- don't let foul odors come out of mouth: that is BAD!

POSSIBLE PHILOSOPHY behind HEALTH and NUTRITION:

THE TASK for YOU

My topic is: _____

My **hypothesis** on how this topic's philosophy might answer the three life questions is:

My Group Members are

Their Contact Information is:

I am responsible for this in my group and my job description is:

Now, begin taking notes!

PRESENTATION

Your presentation should be a creative outflow of information. Merely getting up and saying everything you've found is boring and not highly encouraged. Think of a new way to give the information to your peers so that they can SEE and TOUCH your knowledge. Posters are overdone and don't necessarily appeal to an audience. Other things you may try:

- samples
- scrapbooks
- models
- artifacts
- demonstrations

Requirements for presentation:

1. Everyone needs a speaking part.
2. Your group needs to have some sort of 3-D visual.
3. It should be rehearsed and prepared ahead of time. There should be no need to rehearse or get things together prior to the due date.
4. All notes and materials should be collected and paper-clipped, ready for handing in.
5. You need to present your information as well as tell how it answers the three life questions.

You will be graded on content as well as delivery.

If you are unprepared when called upon, your grade will be reduced. If you go up but seem unprepared, you will be asked to sit down and your grade will be reduced. If someone in your group is not pulling their fair weight, tell me and we will conference as per the appropriate grade. Any other issues, please work out yourselves.

Topic: _____

Name: _____

RUBRIC

	A	B	C	D/F
content	<p>You have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An original and clearly stated focus • Information that has never crossed the audience's mind • Clear, novel, and organized material • Captivating language • A creative, original, compelling introduction • A resonant ending that leaves the audience thinking • Met the time requirements and limits 	<p>You have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear, stated focus • Genuine, accurate, relevant information • Thoughtfully organized material • Appropriate language for the audience • An engaging introduction • A definitive conclusion • Met the time requirements and limits 	<p>You have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A topic, but not a clearly stated focus • Accurate information, but some of it is filler information • Generically organized material • Inappropriate language • A boring introduction that uses a hook • A generic phrase as conclusion • A too-short or way-too-long presentation 	<p>You have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unclear focus or you don't stick to the topic • Irrelevant, inaccurate information • Unorganized material • A vague idea how to begin the presentation • An abrupt or tapering ending like "Uh, that's it" or "I'm done." • A way too-short presentation
delivery	<p>Audience is entranced by what you say because you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain steady eye-contact with audience • Do not use notes • Are confident • Dramatically use your voice to draw attention • Clearly pronounce words • Gesture • Show us you're passionate about the subject 	<p>Audience hears, better understands, and cares about what you're saying because of you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain eye-contact around the room • Use your notes sparingly • Are confident (smile or serious face) • Are loud enough • Clearly pronounce words • Stand upright but remain natural (posture) • Gesture naturally • Energy and enthusiasm 	<p>Audience is interesting in your topic, but occasionally loses attention because you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look occasionally at the audience • Read some of your notes, but have memorized some • Are confident (smile or serious face) • Are loud enough • Clearly pronounce words • Stand upright but remain natural (posture) • Gesture naturally • Seem energetic and enthusiastic 	<p>Your audience can't hear, doesn't understand, or cares about what you're saying because you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never look at the audience • Read almost the entire time • Are incredibly reluctant to present and that's obvious to the audience • Speak too softly to be heard or mostly mumble • Stand stiffly or slouch • Never gesture • Do not seem energetic or enthusiastic about your presentation

Reflection:

Was this project a positive learning experience for you? How?

Were you learning more than just information? What did you learn?

Did you and your group work well together? Say how. If not, please also say how or why not.