


Name:

Due Date:

Seminar

Assume the role of instructor and teach your classmates about a topic of the Russian Revolution. With a small group (of two to three students), research one of the following topics. While planning your seminar, be sure to conduct research on each of the focuses and central questions assigned so you can provide a detailed and accurate response. Important names, dates, places and events should be clarified and pointed out as well. This is not a graphic presentation – PowerPoint presentations and complex visuals are neither required, nor desired. The format will be an oral presentation 5-10 minutes in length. 1-2 minutes will be allotted at the end of each presentation for questions.

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| <p>Choose a Topic of the Russian Revolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rasputin - February Revolution - Petrograd Soviet of Workers - Mensheviks - Bolsheviks - Social Revolutionary Party (SRs) and Cadets (Constitutional Democrats) - Vladimir Lenin - Leon Trotsky - Provisional Government - Treaty of Brest-Litovsk - Civil War (Reds vs Whites) - War Communism - New Economic Policy (NEP) |
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	Emerging / Developing	Proficient	Extending
Significance		Assesses significance with a broad and clear understanding.	
Evidence		Evaluates evidence to select a wide range of credible supporting material.	
Continuity & Change		Compares continuity and change in a connected and organized way.	
Cause & Consequence		Analyzes cause and consequence with accurate and detailed reasoning.	

Self-Assessment:

Teacher-Assessment:

Topic 1: Rasputin**Focuses for seminar:**

- Who was he and what did he do?
- Personal characteristics
- Popularity/disdain
- Relationship with the tsarina
- Effects on morale (peasants, nobility)
- Death (ideas about who might have done it and why)

Central Question:

- What effect did Rasputin have on the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II?

Topic 2: February Revolution**Focuses for seminar:**

- Where did it begin?
- Was it well-organized?
- What sparked the revolution?
- What was the order of events?
- What was the Duma and how was it involved?
- Who else were involved, and who took control?
- What happened to the tsar?

Central Question:

- Public opinion played a central role in the abdication of the Tsar. What events and decisions turned this opinion against the Tsar in the final days of his rule?

Topic 3: Petrograd Soviet of Workers**Focuses for seminar:**

- Major incidences
- What was its purpose?
- Who were involved?
- How was it a challenge to the Provisional Government?

Central Question:

- What effect did the Petrograd Soviet have on the level of success of the Provisional Government?

Topic 4: Mensheviks**Focuses for seminar:**

- Where did they stand on the political spectrum?
- How were they formed?
- What was the party platform (Beliefs)?
- From what sectors of society did they get support?
- Who was allowed to join?
- Ideas on the use of violence
- Political history

Central Question:

- Why were the Mensheviks unable to take power in Russia?

Topic 5: Bolsheviks**Focuses for seminar:**

- Where did they stand on the political spectrum?
- How were they formed?
- What was the party platform (Beliefs)?
- From what sectors of society did they get support?
- Who was allowed to join?
- Ideas on the use of violence
- Political history

Central Question:

- What parts of the Bolshevik party platform allowed them to gain support and what parts were detrimental? Explain.

Topic 6: Social Revolutionary Party (SRs) and Cadets (Constitutional Democrats)**Focuses for seminar:**

- Who was Nicholas Kerensky?
- Where did they stand on the political spectrum?
- How were they formed?
- What was the party platform (Beliefs)?
- From what sectors of society did they get support?
- Who was allowed to join?
- Ideas on the use of violence
- Political history

Central Question:

- In what way can it be said that the SRs and the Cadets were more representative of the Russian people than the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks?

Topic 7: Vladimir Lenin**Focuses for seminar:**

- Background
- Strengths/weaknesses
- Political leanings
- Exile and return to Russia
- Promises upon return

Central Question:

- Lenin has been seen as more of an opportunist than a communist. Assess this statement and defend whether you agree or disagree.

Topic 8: Leon Trotsky**Focuses for seminar:**

- Background
- Strengths/weaknesses
- Political beliefs
- Exile and return to Russia
- Accomplishments in the October Revolution and the Civil War
- Exile and death

Central Question:

- How did Trotsky prove to be such a valuable asset to the Bolsheviks?

Topic 9: Provisional Government**Focuses for seminar:**

- Kerensky's role
- WWI offensive
- Kronstadt demonstrations
- July Days
- Arrest of the Bolsheviks
- Kormilov Affair

Central Question:

- What was Kerensky's government's biggest mistake in handling Kormilov? Explain.

Topic 10: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk**Focuses for seminar:**

- What was it?
- Why did the Bolsheviks think it necessary?
- What were the short term results for Russia?

Central Question:

- Evaluate the possible repercussion of the treaty in terms of relations with other countries in Europe and overseas.

Topic 11: Civil War (Reds vs Whites)**Focuses for seminar:**

- Who were the Reds/Whites?
- Where did they get their support?
- What areas did they control?
- What were their strengths/weaknesses?

Central Question:

- Evaluate the two sides and determine why the initially stronger Whites were unable to defeat the Reds.

Topic 12: War Communism**Focuses for seminar:**

- What was it?
- Who did it affect?
- Why was it put into effect?
- What were the results?

Central Question:

- Some claim that War Communism was less economic policy than a simple necessity to win the war. Others, including Trotsky, saw it as an attempt at pure communism. Evaluate the two opinions.

Topic 13: New Economic Policy (NEP)**Focuses for seminar:**

- What was it?
- Who instituted it?
- What did it change?
- Who benefitted?
- Why was it considered necessary?

Central Question:

- How was the NEP incongruous with Communist philosophy?