Southern New Hampshire University

# CJ 430 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

## Overview

A key aspect of criminal justice is mitigating crime and protecting the public. Terrorism is one of the many facets within the realm of crime and protection that criminal justice professionals will likely encounter, whether directly or indirectly. Throughout the course, we will explore, through active discussions, thought-provoking assignments, and real-world examples, the motivations and techniques of terrorists and terrorist groups, as well as proactive measures that the military, security, and law enforcement community use to combat terrorism around the globe. In order to combat a group or individual, law enforcement and security professionals must first examine the history, motivations, and methods of the group or individual, to appropriately tailor combative efforts.

For your final assessment, you will envision that you are a government operative or high-ranking official who is tasked with presenting to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security about the high threat risk of a specific terrorist group to the United States. You will present both historical and current information about the group's ideology, funding and recruitment methods, target selection, and attack strategies. With this information, you will then provide recommendations to the subcommittee on how to effectively combat the terrorist actions of the specific group.

## Prompt

You are a government executive or high-ranking government official and have been tasked with giving a presentation to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security about the high threat risk of a specific terrorist group to the United States. The subcommittee is specifically interested in learning more about the designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations as determined by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Counterterrorism. The subcommittee would like to be briefed on both historical and current intelligence of the specific terrorist group, including the group's evolution and history of ideology. It would also like to be briefed on specifics of the group, including methods by which the group secures financing and recruits, and methods by which it selects and attacks specific targets. Finally, the committee would like to hear about the effectiveness of current legislation attempting to thwart the group's attacks, as well as some recommendations for more effectively combatting the group.

You will provide this information to the subcommittee in the form of a presentation, creating a visual using a platform of your choice, such as PowerPoint. Also, because verbal communication is important in inter-agency collaboration, you will narrate your presentation or provide speaker notes. Finally, be sure to include sources to support the claims and reporting in your presentation, as the subcommittee will want to ensure the information is backed by valid intelligence.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

I.   **Introduction**: Provide context for your presentation, introducing the group you will be discussing, and why you are giving the presentation.

II.  **Group Background**: To provide even more background to the audience, you will explain the history and evolution of the terrorist group, as well as its current motivations and trends.

A. Describe how the group was created, as well as its **growth** throughout the years to present day, providing specific examples. Consider how the group's leadership, size, and geographic placement have evolved.

B. Describe the evolution of the group's **ideology** from its creation to present day, providing specific examples. How have the group's ideals, goals, and beliefs changed, and why?

C. Describe the group's current **motivations** for committing acts of terror, and the evolution of its motivations. How have the group's motivations changed over time, perhaps in relation to religion or politics? Why does the group go to extremes to prove a point or gain attention?

D. Analyze the group's history and identify **trends** based on the group's motivations, growth, and ideology. Consider any trends relating to religion, politics, economy, or culture. How has the group's history informed these trends and motivations?

III. **Methods**: Here, you will explain to your audience how the terrorist group has managed to survive, speaking specifically about funding and recruitment.

   A. Describe how the group historically and currently obtains **funding**, providing specific examples of the evolution. What are its sources of funding?

   B. Describe how the group historically and currently **recruits** new members, providing specific examples of the evolution. Is there a specific population that makes up the recruits?

   C. Describe how the group historically and currently spreads its message and gains **publicity**, providing specific examples of the evolution. Does it use social media, publications, demonstrations, etc.?

   D. Predict the group's **growth potential** through an analysis of funding, recruitment, and publicity tactics. If you predict it will grow, how may it gain recruits and money? If you predicted it will shrink, how may it lose recruits and funding? Justify your prediction.

IV. **Target Selection and Strategies**

   A. Describe the group's historical and current methods of selecting **targets** and determine patterns present in the targets it selects. How does the group select its targets?

   B. Describe the group's historical and current attack **strategies** and determine patterns present in the targets it selects. What strategies does the group use when committing terrorist acts?

V. **Legislation**

   A. Describe **historical and current** legislation that has been created to curb terrorist threats, and identify specific legislation that relates to your specific group.

   B. Evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation in place to curb terrorist acts for **empowering law enforcement**. Has the legislation provided leverage to security and law enforcement professionals? Are there specific tools that emerged that have assisted in countering terrorism? Provide specific examples in your answer.

   C. Evaluate the **effectiveness** of the legislation in combatting terrorist acts by the specific **group**. Provide specific examples in your answer.

VI. **Threat**

   A. Project **future actions** through an analysis of the group's historical and current methods of selecting targets and attack strategies. Based on your gathered intelligence, what are some likely targets for the terrorist group?

   B. Describe how great of an **immediate threat** the group is to the United States based on your research, supporting claims with sources.

VII. **Recommendations**: Make recommendations to the subcommittee on how to better combat the group, based on all the intelligence you have gathered.

   A. Make a recommendation for hindering the disbursement of the group's **message** and cutting off the group's **funding** and **recruitment**, based on your research. How might you put a stop to funding and recruitment? How will you stop the group's message?

B. Make a recommendation for improving critical infrastructure of high-value **targets** that would be of interest to the terrorist group, based on your research. What types of areas should be protected, and what level of protection should be in place?

# Milestones

Milestone One: *Topic Selection*
In **Module Two**, you will select a specific terrorist group that poses a high-threat risk to the United States. Review the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations on the U.S. Department of State's website. Select one of the listed groups to be the topic of your final project and submit the name of the group to your instructor. **This milestone is graded pass/fail based on completion.**

Milestone Two: *Annotated Bibliography*
In **Module Four**, you will submit an annotated bibliography that surveys scholarly articles, books, and other sources relevant to your particular topic, providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work. Your annotated bibliography should include at least 5–7 scholarly sources and should be more than just a summary of the material. Your annotated bibliography should include a critical analysis of the material. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: *Presentation Outline*
In **Module Five**, you will develop a presentation outline. A presentation outline is a way of formally arranging and developing your ideas for your presentation. Structure your outline around the critical elements in the Final Project Guidelines and Rubric document. The critical elements listed must be covered in your outline as well as your final presentation that you will submit later in the course. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

Final Project: *Terrorist Group Presentation*
In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final presentation. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing all of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission is graded with the Final Project Rubric (below).**

# Rubric

**Guidelines for Submission**: Your presentation should include 10–15 slides and speaker notes, as well as audio, if possible. Be sure to include an introductory element, introducing yourself and the terrorist group you chose.

| Critical Elements | Exemplary (100%) | Proficient (85%) | Needs Improvement (55%) | Not Evident (0%) | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Introduction** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and is exceptionally contextualized to support the presentation | Provides context for presentation, introducing the group being discussed, and why the presentation is being given | Introduces the group and reason for the presentation, but lacks context or detail | Does not introduce the group and reason for the presentation | 3 |
| **Group Background: Growth** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a keen insight into the origin of the group and its growth | Describes the group's creation and historical growth, providing specific examples | Describes the group's creation and historical growth, but does not provide specific examples | Does not describe the group's creation and historical growth | 4.6 |
| **Group Background: Ideology** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the group's ideology | Describes the group's ideological evolution and why changes occurred | Describes the group's ideological evolution, but not why changes occurred, or description is cursory | Does not describe the group's ideological evolution | 4.6 |
| **Group Background: Motivations** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a keen insight into the group's motivations for terror | Describes the group's current motivations and how those motivations evolved | Describes the group's motivations, but does not discuss both the evolution and current motivations | Does not describe the group's motivations | 4.6 |
| **Group Background: Trends** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a keen insight into the group's history | Analyzes the group's history and identifies trends, discussing the relationship | Analyzes the group's history and identifies trends, but does not discuss the relationship or analysis is cursory | Does not analyze the group's history and identify trends | 4.6 |
| **Methods: Funding** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and provides a keen insight into the evolution of funding methods | Describes how the group historically and currently obtains funding, providing specific examples of the evolution | Describes how the group historically and currently obtains funding, but does not provide specific examples of the evolution, or description is cursory | Does not describe how the group historically and currently obtains funding | 4.6 |
| **Methods: Recruits** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and provides a keen insight into the evolution of recruitment methods | Describes how the group historically and currently recruits new members, providing specific examples of the evolution | Describes how the group historically and currently recruits new members, but does not provide specific examples of the evolution, or description is cursory | Does not describe how the group historically and currently recruits new members | 4.6 |
| **Methods: Publicity** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and provides a keen insight into the evolution of publicity strategies | Describes how the group historically and currently spreads its message and gains publicity, providing specific examples of the evolution | Describes how the group historically and currently spreads its message and gains publicity, but does not provide specific examples of the evolution, or description is cursory | Does not describe how the group historically and currently spreads its message and gains publicity | 4.6 |

| Criteria | | Proficient | Developing | Not Evident | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Methods: Growth Potential** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the relationship between growth potential and the group's methods | Predicts the group's growth potential through an analysis of funding, recruitment, and publicity methods | Predicts the group's growth potential but does not connect the prediction to an analysis of funding, recruitment, and publicity methods or prediction contains inaccuracies | Does not predict the group's growth potential | 4.6 |
| **Target Selection and Strategies: Targets** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and is supported with specific examples | Describes the group's historical and current methods of selecting targets and determines patterns | Describes the group's historical and current methods of selecting targets, but does not determine patterns or description is cursory | Does not describe the group's historical and current methods of selecting targets | 6.1 |
| **Target Selection and Strategies: Strategies** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and is supported with specific examples | Describes the group's historical and current attack strategies and determines patterns | Describes the group's historical and current attack strategies, but does not determine patterns or description is cursory | Does not describe the group's historical and current attack strategies | 6.1 |
| **Legislation: Historical and Current** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and is supported with specific examples | Describes historical and current legislation created to curb terrorist threats, relating these to the specific group | Describes historical and current legislation created to curb terrorist threats, but does not relate these to the specific group or description is cursory | Does not describe historical and current legislation created to curb terrorist threats | 6.1 |
| **Legislation: Empowering Law Enforcement** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of effective legislation | Evaluates the effectiveness of the legislation for empowering law enforcement and provides specific examples | Evaluates the effectiveness of the legislation for empowering law enforcement but does not provide specific examples or evaluation is cursory | Does not evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation for empowering law enforcement | 6.1 |
| **Legislation: Effectiveness Group** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the effectiveness of legislation in combatting the specific group | Evaluates the effectiveness of the legislation in combatting the specific group, providing specific examples | Evaluates the effectiveness of the legislation in combatting the specific group, but does not provide specific examples or evaluation is cursory | Does not evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation in combatting the specific group | 6.2 |
| **Threat: Future Actions** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates a keen insight into the relationship between current and historical trends and future actions | Projects future actions through an analysis of the group's historical and current target selection methods and attack strategies | Projects future actions, but does not connect to the group's historical and current target selection methods and attack strategies or projection is cursory | Does not project future actions | 6.2 |
| **Threat: Immediate Threat** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the relationship between target and attack strategies and level of risk | Describes how great of an immediate threat the group is to the United States based on research, supporting claims with sources | Describes how great of an immediate threat the group is to the United States based on research, but does not support claims with sources or description is cursory | Does not describe how great of an immediate threat the group is to the United States | 6.1 |

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| **Recommendations: Message, Funding, Recruitment** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and cites relevant sources in accord with recommendation methods | Recommends a method for hindering the group's publicity, funding, and recruitment based on research | Recommends a method for hindering the group's publicity, funding, and recruitment, but does not connect research or recommendation is cursory | Does not recommend a method for hindering the group's publicity, funding, and recruitment | 6.2 |
| **Recommendations: Targets** | Meets "Proficient" criteria and cites relevant sources in accord with recommendation methods | Recommends a method for improving infrastructure of high-value targets based on research | Recommends a method for improving infrastructure of high-value targets, but does not base recommendation on research or recommendation is cursory | Does not recommend a method for improving infrastructure of high-value targets | 6.1 |
| **Articulation of Response** | Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format | Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization | Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas | Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas | 5 |
| | | | | **Earned Total** | **100%** |