

Guidelines for Phys 322 Oral Presentations

An important part of scientific research is communicating your results to others. This includes scientists working in similar fields, scientists working in other fields, and the general public. Often the first method of reporting important new findings is through oral presentations at scientific conferences.

At the end of the second experiment, all students will give oral presentations to an audience of their classmates. These are meant to simulate a scientific presentation at a conference and should be brief, concise, and informative. Each student in your group should plan to speak for 7-8 minutes, for a 15 minute total presentation. You are free to choose how to divide the material to present it most effectively. Groups should collectively aim for a good balance between background information about the relevant physics and discussion of the results and their interpretation. It is a good idea to practice your talk to ensure it fits appropriately in the allotted time and that all relevant material is covered without too much repetition. Computer-based slides or other media should be used to facilitate the presentation, and you will be asked to upload a pdf of your slides to Canvas after the presentation.

Presentation grades will be determined as follows:

1. Time management - 10 pts
Staying within the 7-8 minute per person time limit and using the time well
2. Overall organization - 20 pts
The talk tells a story in a clear and logical order
3. Clarity - 30pts
Both the spoken content and slides are clear and appropriate for the audience.
4. Overall content and subject knowledge - 20pts
Demonstrates clear understanding of the relevant physics
5. Discussion of results and conclusions - 20pts
Clear presentation of the main results, associated uncertainties, and their interpretation

Total: 100

All presentations will take place in person during class unless there are extenuating circumstances. The presentation order will be randomized. Groups will receive the same grades for overall organization, content, and results discussion. Individuals may receive different scores for time management and clarity.

All students are expected to attend the in class presentations and be attentive and respectful. A few minutes will be reserved for questions at the end of each presentation, and students are strongly encouraged to ask each other questions.