

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 third 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 an 8 minute talk leaving 2 minutes for questions. You are free to choose how to divide the material to present it most effectively, but each talk should be self-contained, with an introduction slide and a conclusion slide. 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. Your talk should be accompanied by slides to facilitate the presentation, and you will be asked to email your slides to the physics322@physics.wustl.edu address after your presentation.

Presentation grades will be determined as follows:

1. Time management - 10 pts

Staying within the 7-9 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.

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.