

Grading Rubric for 18.821 Presentations

October 25, 2013

Clarity (4)

- 4 The presentation is crafted to be understood by all classmates at the start and to guide classmates to understanding so it can be understood by most classmates throughout. For example, the level of detail, difficulty, and formality are appropriate to the audience and to the content; the well chosen topic, structure, examples, figures, explanations, and use of formality help the audience to understand both the problem statement and its solution; the language is precise. Carefully structured board work and/or slides complement vocal delivery by emphasizing important points and helping the audience absorb subtle points, without distracting. Delivery is carefully prepared. Teammates work well together.
- 3 Awkwardnesses of delivery, visuals, or development may be distracting or cause confusion for short periods of time, but do not interfere substantially with audience understanding of the presentation as a whole: most of the class can follow the main points most of the time. Or the presentation exhibits the characteristics of a 4, but one “fatal” flaw (e.g., speed) interferes with audience understanding.
- 2 Only the course staff and the strongest classmates are able to follow the presentation
- 1 Only those already familiar with the project are able to follow the presentation

Audience Engagement (3)

- 3 The presentation is engaging. For example, it is tightly focused around the most interesting results while less important points are de-emphasized or omitted, the delivery is engaging and insightful, with connections made both within the talk and to other disciplines, and the presenters adapt well to audience reactions. It is easy for the audience to pay attention.
- 2 The audience must exert some effort to pay attention to the entire talk.
- 1 Paying attention to the entire talk requires significant effort.

Process and Teamwork (2) The practice presentation was carefully crafted. The revision took into account but was not limited to the feedback of course staff and of teammates. Teammates present well together, creating a presentation that works well as a cohesive whole.

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