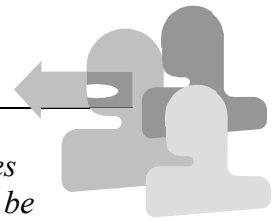


KQ Collaborative Oral Presentations



As you know, to complete your Knowledge Quest project, you and your group mates will be presenting your research to the class. The content of your presentation will be based on what you put together in your Knowledge Quest manuscript but must be prepared and delivered in a manner appropriate for oral presentation. This will be a group presentation and, therefore, you will share a group grade for this final step of the Knowledge Quest.

What's the purpose of the presentation?

The purpose of the presentation is the same as the purpose of your Knowledge Quest manuscript. It's twofold: 1) to tell the tale of your knowledge quest (the research process you went through) and 2) to argue your thesis such that your audience is convinced to accept it before you are through.

How long must the presentation be?

Managing the time of your presentation will be very important and will be something I look at when evaluating it. You will have 15 minutes to complete your presentation. You should fill the time. That means you should not end too early and you will not be allowed to go longer than the 15 minutes. I recommend you plan for a 12 minute presentation and leave three minutes for questions at the end.

What are the requirements for the presentation?

The following requirements should be carefully followed as they will be the basis upon which I will evaluate and grade the presentations.

- The opening should be strong, interest-catching, well crafted, and delivered without the use of notes. It should contain the thesis of the argument.
- The organization of the presentation should be clear and effective—with clear “signposts” (transitions) signaling to the audience when the speaker is moving on to a new point.
- Both purposes (as described above) should be clear and fully achieved before the presentation is completed.
- Every member of the group should speak, but this should be coordinated well such that the presentation doesn't feel choppy. Strong unity and cohesion are essential. Careful planning and rehearsal will help.
- Transitions between speakers should be smooth and not overly obvious.
- No presenter can have more than a single 3x5 note card to use for an outline or notes. The presentation should be largely extemporaneous. (Extemporaneous means carefully prepared but delivered without notes or text.)
- Presenters should make effective use of supplemental material by using available multimedia, other visual aids, or by creating and distributing handouts. PowerPoint may be used, but if used, it must be used well. Limit the text on each slide. Try to use more images than text. And, whatever you do, don't read the slides. (Reading off the screen is fatal to a presentation.)
- The delivery of the presentation should move beyond straight “lecture” style. As students, you probably know this style is often boring. Instead, try to make your presentation interactive in some way. It should “engage” the class. As presenters, your connection to the audience of the class should be apparent.
- Well-informed, well-substantiated conclusions must be drawn by the end of the presentation; the presentation should successfully guide the class to understand, if not accept, the conclusions.
- Source material must be properly cited in your presentation by both noting the citation during delivery and making a works cited page available to the audience after the presentation.
- Ideas should be delivered well, with confidence, clarity, and fluidity.
- Time should be deftly managed so as not to fall far short of the 15 minute limit and certainly not to exceed it. You will need to practice.
- Presenters should provide ample opportunity for the class to ask questions and questions should be handled thoughtfully and thoroughly.
- The closing should be strong, well crafted, and delivered without notes. It should leave a strong lasting impression and provide a sense of closure.

How much is the presentation worth?

The final oral presentation will be averaged with your midterm exam grade. This average will then be worth 15% of your overall course grade. It's not peanuts, so prepare well.

When will the presentations be delivered?

We *may* begin the presentations during the last day of class, but will complete them during the final exam meeting time. Prepare well, but try not to stress out over this. Just relax and do your very best.