

Grading Rubric for 18.821 Presentations (out of 15 points)

Clarity (8)

- 7–8 Students and staff alike learned a huge amount from this stellar presentation.
- 6–7 The presentation could be understood and appreciated on some level by all classmates. The level of detail, difficulty, and formality were appropriate to the audience and to the content; the structure, examples, figures, and explanations were well chosen and led most of the audience to understand not only the statement of the problem but also its motivation and the progress made toward its solution; the language and notations were precise. Carefully structured board work and/or slides complemented the vocal delivery by emphasizing important points and helped the audience to absorb subtle points, without being distracting. The delivery was carefully prepared, and individual segments were well integrated into the whole.
- 4–5 Some aspects of the delivery, visuals, or development were less than optimal, but only for short periods and in ways that didn't interfere substantially with audience understanding of the presentation as a whole. Alternatively, all the characteristics of a 9, but with one significant flaw, such as going too fast, running out of time, or making poorly organized transitions between speakers or between aspects of the problem.
- 3 Only the course staff and the strongest classmates were able to understand and appreciate the presentation.
- 1–2 Only those already familiar with the project were able to understand and appreciate the presentation.

Audience Engagement (4)

- 3–4 The presentation was engaging and insightful. For example, it was focused on the most interesting results and motivation, while less important points were de-emphasized or omitted. The presenters adapted well to audience reactions. The delivery was compelling; it was easy for the audience to pay attention.
- 2 The audience had to exert some effort to pay attention to the entire talk.
- 1 Paying attention to the entire talk required significant effort.

Process and Teamwork (3)

- 3 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 coordinated well, creating a presentation that worked well as a cohesive whole.
- 2 There were some gaps in team preparation, such as use of consistent notation.
- 1 For the audience to connect the different parts of the presentation was quite difficult.