

Three Minute In-Class Oral Presentation Instructions

Purpose: “HONR 1034: Revolutions in Astronomy” is designated as a GPAC: Oral Communication course. Oral communication skills will be applicable not only in many of the courses that you will be taking during your time at GW but are also required for you to be successful in future internships and jobs! To that end, over this semester you will repeatedly practice these skills by planning and giving three short in-class presentations. To help your skills strengthen and grow over the semester, you will be provided with peer and instructor feedback after each presentation and asked to do a short self-reflection on how the presentation went and how you plan to improve next time. These presentations will also give you the chance to explore astronomy topics that excite and inspire you!

Your final oral presentation of the semester will also be used to assess whether or not you have met the following GPAC: Oral Communication learning objectives:

1. *Students will take responsibility for a significant topic with a clear thesis and persuasive argument*
2. *Students will demonstrate facility with topical and disciplinary knowledge via well-crafted, audience appropriate language*
3. *Students will demonstrate vocal qualities and physical behaviors that augment content and maintain audience interest*

Task: Everyone will be giving three 3-minute talks over the semester. These are very quick talks! You will have to think carefully about what information you can provide in just 3 minutes and practice to ensure you don't run over (or under). Your talk must be accompanied by a single PowerPoint slide (+ a second slide listing your references, which will not be shown during your presentation). Your talk should not be a rote list of facts but should tell an interesting and engaging story about your astronomer/instrument/article. You should be prepared to answer audience questions.

The topic for each of your talks can be (1) an astronomer from a list of names provided [see the sign-up Wiki in Bb for details], (2) an astronomical instrument or telescope or space probe of your choosing, or (3) a recent (within the last few months) newspaper or magazine article related to astronomy/space.

Each presentation should cite at least two sources (note that Wikipedia is a great place to start, but it does not count as a source). If you are discussing a recent article, that article counts as one of your two sources

Following your talk, you will reflect on your performance in your presentation journal in Bb. This reflection should be brief and should highlight what you thought were the strengths and weaknesses of your presentation – related both to its content and to your presentation performance. What specific areas do you want to improve on in your next presentation? You can also reflect on the feedback you will receive from your peers.

Criteria: Each presentation/reflection is worth 4 points, graded using the following rubric:

	Points	Complete	Incomplete
Content	1	Tells a clear, engaging story about the topic	Presentation is difficult to understand or simply lists facts
Visual	1	Accompanied by one clear slide	Accompanied by 0 or >1 slides, or slide is overloaded/unclear
Time	0.5	2.5 - 3.5 minutes	<2.5 or >3.5 minutes
Citations	0.5	2 or more sources	<2 sources
Reflection	1	Completed thoughtfully	Not completed, or lacking thoughtfulness

Note that after each talk you will receive detailed feedback from both your peers and the instructor on your vocal qualities and physical behaviors, however these elements do not factor into your oral presentation grade. *In other words, your grade won't suffer even if you're not super comfortable presenting to a large group.* Ideally, feedback, reflection and practice over the semester will help you gain confidence as a speaker!