

More thoughts on presentations

There are many different successful ways to give a presentation, and the sort of hints I give here are just one way to do it. You should feel free to change anything that you wish, if you want to emphasize other things.

You have 25 minutes to give your presentation, and at least five minutes of that should be devoted to a question-and-answer-period (more, if you think the class will want to discuss matters more fully).

Spend some 10-15 minutes summarizing the reading, including (if you wish) the parts not read by the whole class. It might be helpful to prepare a handout summarizing the main points, and including any quotes, diagrams, or other material that you might want to refer to, since the rest of the class will not have the full article in front of themselves.

Spend at least one or two minutes saying how your chosen excerpt (which was read by the whole class) fits into and compares with the rest of what you have read. [Of course, if your article was shorter than 20 pages, this will not apply to you.]

Pose a short set of questions for the class to discuss. (Either devote maybe a minute to stating the questions, or put them on the handout). Such questions might be ones asking whether the author's various distinctions are really so clear, or whether the results hold as generally as the author claims, or suggesting further investigations that might be helpful in shedding more light on the subject. You might even ask questions about how the present paper fits into some other work of the same author (if enough people know of the other work) or of the material presented in class lectures.

Ask the members of the class what questions they have or would like to pose. You might even want to elicit **all** of these before addressing any of them.

Spend the remainder of your allotted time leading and participating in a discussion of both the ideas you have presented and the excerpt that everyone has read.