

BISC-869 Presentation Rubric

Presentation Skills [/25]

- Were the main ideas presented in an orderly and clear manner?
- Did the presentation fill the allotted time?
- Were the slides appropriate and helpful?
- Was the talk engaging to watch?

Knowledge Base [/50]

- Was proper background information given?
- Was the presented material appropriate to the topic?
- Was enough essential information given to allow the audience to understand difficult concepts?
- Was irrelevant information excluded?
- Did the presenter have a clear understanding of the material presented?

Critical Thinking [/25]

- Were the main issues in this area clearly identified?
- Were the strengths and weaknesses of these methods (if applicable) discussed?

Discussion Moderation Guidelines

This is a tricky one to have a “rubric” for. I would suggest that moderators:

- Make sure that everyone understands the paper. This doesn’t mean having answers to questions, but instead making sure that time is spent clarifying any questions others may have (and others may also have the answers to these questions).
- Prepare enough questions to keep the discussion going. This isn’t always easy to prepare for, as it is not easy to anticipate how much others will have to say about a given paper (sometimes terrible papers lead to great discussions, and vice versa). I’d aim for ~ 10 questions you could pose to the group, if conversation wanes.
- Come up with some questions that get people thinking about the broader significance of the paper.
- Make sure things don’t get too far off track.

As a note, I would also advise presenters to not fill awkward silences too hastily (as difficult as this can be). Sometimes people require a lengthy silence before speaking up, and sometimes people just need to think. So, don’t rush discussion. Just make sure to have questions to ask, in case discussion really wanes, and make sure to steer things in such a way that the main points you want to talk about are discussed.