

Group Project Presentations

This handout clarifies the nature of the group project assignment.

A. CHOOSE TOPIC. Your job is to present to the class one or more theories regarding small group communication in a specific kind of context. The theory/concepts should meet the following criteria:

1. They should be interesting and challenging to the students.
2. There should be an existing academic literature on these theories.

The context should be:

1. One that involves a common or uniquely important kind of small groups.
2. One on which there is sufficient scholarly or popular literature.

When your group has identified a potential theory and context, run it by me for approval, and I will assess the proposed idea in light of these criteria.

B. PREPARE PRESENTATION. Once you have a topic, you will begin working on a class presentation that will introduce your theory and context to the class.

The presentation should include these elements:

1. Explanation of the background of this theory. How did it arise?
2. Description of the theory—it's core concepts and claims.
3. Description of the context in which you apply the theory. Why is it important?
4. The research and evidence in support of the value of the theory in group context you have chosen.
5. An in-class exercise that has the class do an activity that helps them understand the theory. This may involve the class breaking into smaller groups.
6. Conclude by stressing the relevance of the theory and how it helps us understand groups in this context.

C. TURN IN MATERIALS. Immediately after the presentation, you should turn in the following materials:

1. An annotated bibliography of at least twenty sources used in developing your presentation. The research that goes into your presentation requires the inclusion of at least ten peer-reviewed articles relevant to your subject. An additional ten sources can include books, chapters, news/magazine articles, and/or more peer-reviewed articles.
2. A complete outline of your presentation. (If you use PowerPoint, include a printout of your slides.) This will probably be 2-5 pages.
3. A written description of your in-class exercise. This is probably 1-3 pages.

D. GRADE. Your grade on this assignment will be determined by the quality of your in-class presentation and the materials you turn in with that presentation. Group members will also be asked to privately assess member participation; an individual member may have his/her grade reduced if that person did not make satisfactory contributions to the group effort.