

For a certain number of designated class meetings, everyone will be asked to read the assigned reading closely and be prepared to present it in groups.

1. When you get to class,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of you will be randomly assigned to be presenters and  $\frac{3}{4}$  will be commenters, and you'll break into groups of 4, with one presenter and three commenters.
2. Presenters will have about 5 minutes to explain the basics of the reading. A description of what to include is below.
3. Then, commenters will give the presenter feedback on the presentation; accuracy, clarity, organization, level of detail.
4. Then all four people in the group will work on one or a couple of discussion questions that I provide.
5. Finally, we'll reconvene as a class and discuss the questions and the topic reading in the context of the course.

The reading presentations are intended to serve several purposes:

1. To give you deeper knowledge of some of the readings than you'd usually have
2. To give you practice reading deeply and critically
3. To give you practice presenting material in a structured and critical way, and also giving feedback on presentations

What to include in your presentation

1. A general overview of what the reading is about - the important main ideas. You should include in here a short discussion of how this reading relates to other stuff we've talked or read about in class.
2. Describe the content of the reading. Here, you want to cover all of the major issues the reading discussed, and present them in such a way that someone who hasn't read it (although everyone in your group of course will have) will understand them. If it's a paper describing an experiment (or several experiments), include
  - a. the research question
  - b. the hypothesis
  - c. the method (including a description of the materials and at least one example)
  - d. the statistical tests used
  - e. the results—which of the critical tests yielded significant results?
  - f. discussion of what the results say about the hypothesis and research question the paper started with

If it's a paper that surveys research on a particular topic, presents a new theory, or compares theories or models, then you should include

- a. the language comprehension phenomena addressed
- b. the theory or theories discussed
- c. the methods by which the theory or theories are empirically evaluate and compared

- d. the results of applying those methods
  - e. the strengths and weaknesses of the methods
  - f. the strengths and weaknesses of the theory or theories
3. Provide a critical analysis. What parts of the reading are important for other, related issues and questions? Which parts are stronger and which weaker? Are there improvements that could be made? Is the reasoning sound? Do you buy it (and why or why not)? Etc.

How to prepare a reading for the presentation.

1. Read the article once to get the basic ideas. Take some notes - what is (or are) the main point(s) of the reading - what's it trying to communicate? If it's a research article, this might be to provide empirical evidence for a theoretical position. If it's a chapter, it might be to inform the reader about a phenomenon or set of phenomena. You probably will want to mark parts you don't get the first time around, or things you find particularly interesting, troublesome, or important.
2. Read the article again, this time with an eye for the information you will want to present about it. Take notes with finer detail - identify crucial examples, methods, or arguments.
3. You don't need to prepare a handout or slide show (although you can if you want!), but it will be helpful for you to have some brief notes in outline form that you can work from. Make sure your outline has all the sections listed above.
4. The presentation should take about 5 minutes. It might help to practice it to make sure you don't go too far over.

Commenters

When you're a commenter, your job is to do your best to provide helpful, constructive, critical feedback on the presentation that will help the presenter see what they're doing that's effective and how they can improve for next time. Things to include in your feedback:

1. Content: Did the presentation hit all the critical points (see above)? What did it leave out?
2. Accuracy: did the presenter accurately convey the main points of the reading (listed above)? If you think there are spots where they got things wrong, what were they?
3. Clarity and organization: Was the presentation clear and easy to follow? What would make it clearer and easier to follow?
4. Level of detail. Did the presentation provide the right amount of detail to cover the important parts of the material as thoroughly as possible in 5 minutes? What parts were too detailed? What parts needed more detail?

You'll discuss your feedback with the presenter as a group.