

The **next page** serves as the form I will use to score your Honors oral presentation, if you select the talk option (as opposed to a paper).

I've listened to a lot of presentations over the years, and I find it much more enjoyable to listen to a good one than a bad one. There are few things more frustrating to me than sitting through some poorly illustrated, longwinded, overPowerPointed piece of baloney.

Here's some advice towards doing the best job you can on your presentation, and therefore getting the best grade:

- (1) Define your issue / topic clearly. Discuss the idea with me to hone it down to something Honors-worthy.
- (2) Keep track of all research you do. You are required to document your sources in a "Works Cited" (Bibliography) page that will be part of the handout you prepare for the audience of your talk.
- (3) This isn't just a normal presentation. It's a representation of your intellectual achievement as a Geology Honors student. It should shine with academic merit.
- (4) Science is logical, skeptical, and empirical. For every statement you make, you should be clear (in your own mind) whether it is factual or interpretive. Ask yourself whether there are other interpretations to the same data or observations.
- (5) Please run Spell-Check after you've written your first draft of your PowerPoint slideshow. Everybody makes mistakes. Smart people search for (and then fix) those mistakes before they turn their paper in. Dumb people don't bother to search for their initial errors, leaving the audience to marvel at the presenter's lack of preparedness.
- (6) Keep it tight – use an economy of slides. Spare your audience the one-slide-per-sentence routine. Ideally, you should have about ten slides in a 12-to-15 minute long talk. Number your slides unobtrusively in the lower right: 1/10, 2/10, etc., so that the audience knows how far through the presentation you are.
- (7) Run a rough draft of your talk by me (at least a week before it is due). I'll look over it and make suggestions so you can end up with a better presentation and a better grade. Take those suggestions and implement them.
- (8) Illustrate your talk. A picture is worth a thousand words. PowerPoint is frequently misused by people who type out everything they want to say, and then just read it out loud to their audience. You should consider PowerPoint as a slide projector – emphasize graphic images. Then talk about those photos, graphs, maps, or sketches. (Of course, if you didn't produce the image yourself, you must credit the original source.)
- (9) Prepare a brief handout listing (a) your name, (b) your main points, (c) any key illustrations, and (d) your sources in a "Works Cited" section. "Google" does not count as a source. Neither does "the Internet." Sources have an author, a date, and a place where I can go to verify them. No title pages – they are a total waste of paper, you tree killer you.
- (10) Practice your talk at least five times on your own before you give it to the Honors group.
- (11) Review the criteria by which your paper will be graded (next page). Does your talk meet those criteria? Try scoring it yourself.

I hope this list helps to focus your thinking and your talk. If any of this is unclear, for goodness' sake, come see me and ask! I want to be clear about what I expect, so that you can live up to my expectations. I want you to be an academic rock star, and I want you to get a lot of personal fulfillment out of completing his project. Have fun. Be excellent.

– Callan Bentley

Honors Oral Research Presentation  
Scoring Form

Speaker:
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Topic:
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	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Scientific content and scholarship (40 points)				
Quality of source material	2	4	6	8
Proper documentation of sources	2	4	6	8
Apparent mastery of subject	2	4	6	8
Information <i>beyond</i> class lectures	2	4	6	8
Handling of audience questions	2	4	6	8
Organized and effective communication (30 points)				
Logical progression of ideas	2	4	6	8
Clear presentation of concepts	4	6	8	10
Effective use of visuals (PowerPoint, etc.)	2	4	6	8
Well organized handout with references	2	4	6	8
Participation in discussions (10 points)	2	4	6	8
Appropriate length? ( <i>10-15 minutes</i> ) (10 points)	2	4	6	8
Honors caliber? ( <i>rigor of scientific content</i> ) (10 points)	4	6	8	10
Additional miscellaneous points ( <i>humor, etc.</i> )				
Total points ( <i>out of 100 possible</i> )				

Comments
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