

Math 300 Presentation Rubric

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The goal of this assignment is to practice communicating mathematical ideas to an audience via a verbal/slideshow presentation. The audience will be your fellow math majors. Assume they are mathematically skilled, but unfamiliar with the specific topic you are discussing.

Choose a theorem, result, or technique from a 300- or 400-level math class you have taken or are taking. You will give a ten-minute slideshow presentation in class in which you will explain the result, the basic ideas behind it, and the reason it is important and relevant.

(Mathematical results from courses in other departments may be approved on a case-by-case basis, but please consult with me to confirm.)

Your presentation will be graded on the following rubric. Each category below will have equal weight. I encourage you to send me a draft of your slides and/or come in and talk to me before your presentation for feedback.

1. Time management

You have a **ten** minute slot for your presentation. Your presentation should be at least eight minutes long, but no longer than ten minutes. Manage your time so you can spend an appropriate amount of time on each topic, without rushing or stalling.

2. Audience Engagement

Stay connected to your audience. Project and speak to your audience; look at your audience and make eye contact. Don't stare at your slides, or read them verbatim. Have a fluid delivery; consider rehearsing what you're going to say.

3. Clean slides

Have well-organized, easy-to-read slides. Don't crowd them, but do include pertinent information. Don't leave major editing or typographical errors in your slides. Typeset mathematics cleanly.

4. Organization

Organize your presentation in a logical manner so your audience can follow it. Signpost clearly so we know what you're doing and where you're going. Present information in a logical sequence so you don't have to double back or repeat yourself.

5. Correct mathematical content

The mathematics in your presentation should be complete and correct. Don't say false things. Do know the math behind your talk; the fact that you shouldn't give all the details of a proof does not mean you shouldn't understand it. Answer questions in a clear and informed manner.

6. Context and motivation

Provide context for your talk. Explain why you care about the topic, and why your audience should care. How does it connect to other mathematical ideas? What applications does it have? Who uses this result?

7. Narrative

Make sure your talk tells a story, rather than being a disconnected set of facts. Give a clear introduction explaining what you're talking about. Conclude by reminding us what we should take away from the talk. Don't get lost in the details of a technical argument, but stay focused on the overall message of your presentation.

8. Overall Impact

A catchall category for my more subjective impressions.