

Guidelines for Presenting a Research Paper

Once in the semester, you will be asked to lead a paper discussion. You will **work together with your assigned partners**, and come up with a **set of slides** to help structure the discussion. You are expected to **share all responsibilities equally**, including putting the slides together and presenting on the day of the discussion. However, you are free to choose what that distribution looks like.

A few pointers regarding submissions:

- **Two days before your scheduled discussion, by 11:59 PM:** Email Saugata (ghose@illinois.edu) with an initial draft of your slides. This should be close to complete, but does not need to be a final version. Note that I will post this version online (as a password-protected PDF) before class.
- **Day of discussion:** On Gradescope, upload a PDF of your final presentation slides to the assignment labeled **Paper Discussion Presentation** before class. *Only one partner needs to upload to Gradescope, but they **must** add the other team members to the submission (there is an option for this).*
- **You CANNOT submit a paper review for the paper you present.**

Below is a rough breakdown of points, and what I expect for a discussion that would get full points.

1. Basic Structure & Slide Format (25 points)

- Paper summary, 7–8 minutes (*you will be penalized for going over or significantly under time*)
- A discussion of strengths and weaknesses, 3–4 minutes
- Question and answer, 2–4 minutes
- Slides are not just a wall of text, but include diagrams (note that it's okay to use figures from the papers or from other sources, as long as you include written attribution on your slides)
- Title slide includes discussion topic name (see schedule on webpage) and both presenters' names
- *Note: animations are helpful in certain cases, but they are certainly not required for full credit*

2. Speaking Skills (20 points, *graded individually*)

- You talk for roughly an equal amount of time as your partners
- No rambling statements – what you say should be concise and precise (practice it beforehand!)
- You aren't just reading text off of the slides
- You make good eye contact with the audience

3. Paper Summary (40 points)

- Covers the key points of the paper
- Easy to understand for someone who has *not* read the paper
- Does not include irrelevant details
- Does not go significantly over or under time
- Highlights the key insights and/or key ideas of the paper

4. Strengths & Weaknesses (15 points)

- Discuss what technical strengths the paper had
- Highlight weaknesses in the idea or evaluation
- *Optional:* discuss something you wish the authors had done