

Homework Assignment #9, Short Science Talk

This assignment is an individual short oral presentation. You may base it on the work that you did for Homework #5, on your own research, or on a topic of interest to you. Approach it from the standpoint of an extended television news story; consider the journalist's questions of *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how*, but concentrate on only one or two main ideas. You cannot cover more than one or two main points in the time allotted. You may emphasize any part of the story you like—the concept, the underlying theory, experimental evidence, the history, the implications for future work.

Prepare five slides in PowerPoint—a title slide to grab the audience's attention and show any acknowledgments, an introductory slide that motivates your talk, two "content" slides that illustrate your main idea(s), and a summary slide that reiterates the important idea(s). You may use figures you obtain from other sources to illustrate your talk, but be sure to credit them properly.

Allow about 5 min for your talk plus 2 min for questions at the end. The 7-min time limit will be strictly enforced, and failure to use most of the time or to complete your talk in the allotted time will result in loss of points. So rehearse!

Due: **Wednesday, April 15, noon.** Email a draft of your slides to phys496@physics.illinois.edu. The draft will not be formally graded, but you will receive feedback to help you improve your talk. Failure to submit the draft *will* result in loss of points on the final assignment, due April 17.

Due: **Friday, April 17, 1:00 p.m.** Email your presentation to phys496@physics.illinois.edu by 1:00 p.m. for presentation during class.

Total—150 points; 75 points for the scientific content of your talk; 50 points for the quality of your slides, and 25 points for the professionalism of your delivery. This assignment is not eligible for rewrite points.