

SCIE300 Class presentation and discussion assignment (CPD)

Overview

For this assignment, each student will choose one chapter from Mackay or Bostrom. The student will conduct additional research on the content of this chapter and create a presentation to be delivered in class. Following the presentation, the student will lead a class discussion on the chosen material.

Details

Each student must choose a different chapter. Notify the instructor of your choice by email. Choice is on a first-come first-served basis. The presentation and discussion will take place in the class session in which the chosen chapter is part of the assigned reading. The presentation should be about 15 minutes in duration and can make use of any suitable combination of audiovisual materials, whiteboard, oral presentation and classroom activities. The discussion after the presentation will also be about 15 minutes in duration. The leader should prepare several discussion questions together with brief notes on the answers to those questions. Presentation slides and discussion questions (with notes on the answers) should be submitted to Moodle as a single ZIP file in advance of the session.

Rubric

The assignment is graded out of a total of 100 points. The presentation is worth 75 points and the discussion is worth 25 points. The presentation will be graded according to the following rubric:

Content (35 points)	Level is perfect for target audience. Primarily deals with non-trivial scientific content. No flaws in logic or factual material. All reasonable questions were answered correctly. Presentation demonstrates research beyond the assigned reading. All terms are defined clearly before they are used.
Structure (20 points)	Objectives are clearly explained. Arguments or examples are well explained. Conclusion is obvious. The overall flow of the presentation is easy to comprehend.
Style (20 points)	Audience is captivated during the talk. Flawless slides or other materials. Timing is appropriate. Speech is clear, confident, and fluent throughout.

Acknowledgement: rubric adapted from Occidental College physics department

A detailed rubric is not provided for the discussion portion of the assignment, but an excellent grade will be achieved by addressing all of the following: Do the discussion questions encourage the participants to consider a good range of issues relevant to the discussion topic? Do some of the questions ensure factual understanding, while others allow for debate and reflection? Are the answers accurate and convincing? Do they present unbiased summaries including both sides of controversial issues? Does the

discussion leader demonstrate excellent knowledge of the topic, including an ability to answer their own discussion questions and the questions of others? Is the leader able to explain complex content clearly to other participants? Is the leader able to acknowledge both sides of controversial issues in discussion? Does the leader demonstrate passion and enthusiasm for the topic?