



# Presenting papers

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# Five tips for how to work toward making the presentation, and keeping it short

# 1 – read it more than once

# 2 – write yourself an abstract

# 3 – prioritise elements

# 4 – think about how it relates to your project

# 5 – time the presentation

# #1: Read it more than once

## *Why?*

Knowing a text well gives you greater freedom to talk confidently and concisely about it

New knowledge and understanding arise with each read-through

Gives a better sense of what is important and what is trivial

## *How?*

Write down some questions about the text after the first read-through, and try to answer these on your next read-through

Writing out the answers to these questions on the second (and third, and fourth) read-through can work as a form of note-taking.

## #2: Write an abstract of the paper

### *Why?*

Also works as a concrete form of note-taking, and gives space for digesting and figuring out what is the actual core (in your opinion) of the paper

Gives you as a group a startingpoint for discussions

Can be shared with the class for exam preparations!

### *How?*

Write yourself 4-5 sentences that describes your understanding of the paper, and what is important.

Discuss this with the other members of the group (it's alright to disagree on what the core message is)

# #3: Prioritise the different elements

## *Why?*

Makes it easier to keep the presentation itself short

Gives a concrete way of seeing the text as not only *one* thing, but multiple elements that makes up the message

## *How?*

Do you find the theory, the case (or elements of the case), the analysis, the discussion, the conclusion, or a combination of these most relevant.

What makes this paper relevant? – for you, for the class, for research

# #4: Think about how it relates to your project

## *Why?*

Gives you a lens through which you can understand the text in a new way

Makes it easier to answer the questions from the opposing group

## *How?*

How can the different parts, elements, messages, theories, analysis, methods, tools, techniques, practices, be combined and used in your project

Ask which can't, and why?

Discuss this with your group as a way of digesting the content and message of the paper

# #5: Time the presentation

## *Why?*

Because being short and concise is more difficult than speaking for a long time and in broader strokes!

It is frustrating for the entire class if the presentations are too long and exceeds the given time slots

## *How?*

**Ignore the details, communicate only the essentials**

Focus on the content of the paper, not the facts: use no longer than 20-30 introducing title, authors, and year of publishing

# Assignment description

- *What* are the key questions?
- *Why* are these the important questions?
- *How* are the questions addressed?
- How do these questions contribute to present the *message*?
- What are the *benefits* of this message?
  
- Give a short *critical assessment* of what you find to be the paper's strengths or shortcomings

# General structure – give space and time for these elements

Introduction and contextualisation

As the main content of the presentation, you can describe the entire paper in a *general* manner, or give a quick overview of everything followed by a “deep-dive” into one theme or element

Concluding remarks and critical assessment

# In general

- Details are unimportant
  - Focus on how to maintain within the 10-12 minute time limit!
- Keep it general throughout, or give a quick overview of the paper and go into detail on *one specific* topic discussed or described
- Is there something you would like to take out as more important, relevant, or worthy of critique?
  - Make sure to communicate why this topic/theme interested you
- Discuss the paper within the group
  - Even if there is disagreement within the group on what the message of the paper, this can contribute to a deeper understanding of the paper and its content