

CHEM 681 Graduate Literature Seminar: Oral Presentation

Assignment: Give a 40-minute seminar that focuses on recent results published in the chemical literature. Answer questions from faculty and students for approximately 10 minutes following your seminar.

Objectives: This assignment is designed to give you practice at

- 1) Communicating scientific ideas orally
- 2) Describing and evaluating important scientific topics
- 3) Designing effective visual aids
- 4) Handling questions and thinking on your feet

Topic: A chemical research area that is not directly related to your research chosen by you and your advisor before the beginning of your second year of study.

Target Audience: Chemistry graduate students

Instructions: Prepare a power point presentation on your selected topic that you can deliver in 40 minutes.

The presentation should include the following sections:

- 1) Title Slide - Include title, your name and acknowledge authors.
- 2) Motivate issue/problem – Explain the relevance of the topic.
- 3) Scope/Focus/Outline - Let us know what you will be focusing on in your talk.
- 4) Introduction/Background - What problem needs to be solved? Put this work into perspective.
- 5) Method/Approach - What method or approach will be used to solve the problem?
- 6) Results/Information/Analysis - Present and analyze the experimental results.
- 7) Outlook/Conclusions - Where is the field going? What is coming down the pipeline?

Notes

- For a 40 minute talk, you will probably need 30-40 slides.
- Do not use less than size 18 font.
- Do not crowd too much information on one slide, use illustrations/charts/tables whenever you can.
- Cite information and illustrations using ACS referencing style at the bottom of the relevant slide.
- Avoid meaningless clip art, distracting backgrounds, noisy transitions, etc. Be professional!
- Practice your talk out loud at least three times and preferably in front of an audience before class.
- Your talk should be longer than 37 minutes and shorter than 43 minutes.
- Be prepared to answer questions.
- A lecture titled 'Scientific Abstracts and Presentations' will be given at the beginning of the fall semester.

Peer Evaluation: Each member of the class will evaluate every speaker using the peer evaluation criteria that are listed on the attached sheet. These evaluations may factor into the speakers' presentation grades and will count toward the evaluators' attendance grade. Peer evaluators will use an eCampus survey to record their anonymous evaluations. The evaluations may be completed in class using a mobile electronic device or completed within 30 minutes of the end of class on a remote device. Speakers will receive an evaluation report summarizing the peer evaluations.

Grading: Faculty seminar coordinators will use the attached grading form to evaluate speakers. Your performance will be graded on an A-F in scale in the following categories: 1) Abstract, 2) Delivery, 3) Organization and Visual Aids, 4) Content Level, Depth and Scope, 5) Integration of Chemical Principles, 6) Critical Analysis, 7) Ability to Answer Questions. Based on these grades the faculty coordinators will assign an overall presentation grade on an A-F scale. Grades of C and lower on the presentation will result in a course grade of Unsatisfactory (U). Students receiving a course grade of U will be required to present another seminar in the following semester.

Due Dates: The talks will be presented throughout the entire semester, beginning on **Monday, September 2nd**. The talk schedule will be attached to the syllabus. On the day of your talk: 1) Upload a copy of the talk to eCampus **by 4:00 pm** and 2) Bring and **electronic** copy of your talk to class.

CHEM 681 Graduate Literature Seminar: Peer Evaluation Form

Please evaluate the speaker in each category according to the following scale: A – Excellent, B – Good, C – Fair, F – Poor. Also include comments with each category to explain your rankings.

A B C F **Delivery** (*Practiced? Face the audience? Eye contact? Projected voice? Distracting habits? Reading from slides/notes? Pace of talk? Length of talk?*)

A B C F **Organization and Visual Aids** (*Legible and well-organized slides? Good transitions? Good balance of text and figures, What additional figures or diagrams would be helpful? Articles cited correctly?*)

A B C F **Content Level, Depth, and Scope** (*Topic clearly introduced? Method explained? Results described? Conclusions discussed? Appropriate for an audience of chemists? What was unclear?*)

A B C F **Integration of Chemical Principles** (*Substantial chemistry discussed throughout the talk?*)

A B C F **Critical Analysis** (*Results were critically analyzed?*)

A B C F **Ability to Answer Questions** (*Questions were clearly answered?*)

A B C F **Overall Evaluation**

List a particular strength of this talk

Name an area that could use improvement

CHEM 681 Graduate Literature Seminar: Faculty Grading Form

Speaker _____

Please evaluate the speaker in each category according to the following scale: A – Excellent, B – Good, C – Fair, F – Poor. Also include comments with each category to explain your rankings.

A B C F **Abstract** (*Appropriate scope? Appropriate length? Relevant figure included?*)

A B C F **Delivery** (*Practiced? Face the audience? Eye contact? Projected voice? Distracting habits? Reading from slides/notes? Pace of talk? Length of talk?*)

A B C F **Organization and Visual Aids** (*Legible and well-organized slides? Good transitions? Good balance of text and figures, What additional figures or diagrams would be helpful? Articles cited correctly?*)

A B C F **Content Level, Depth, and Scope** (*Topic clearly introduced? Method explained? Results described? Conclusions discussed? Appropriate for an audience of chemists? What was unclear?*)

A B C F **Integration of Chemical Principles** (*Substantial chemistry discussed throughout the talk?*)

A B C F **Critical Analysis** (*Results were critically analyzed?*)

A B C F **Ability to Answer Questions** (*Questions were clearly answered?*)

A B C F **Overall Evaluation**

More comments may be written on the reverse side of this evaluation form.