

UBC, Geography 410: Environment and Society.

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Student Presentations

These informal presentations are designed to give you experience at public speaking before a supportive audience. Your presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes, which will be followed by a few minutes for questions and answers. The presentation is worth 20% of your final grade.

Select a topic that interests you, one that has some bearing on the material we are covering in the class this term. You may choose to explore and evaluate a particular piece of environmental legislation (say, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act), an institution (B.C. Hydro) or an issue (for example, The East coast seal hunt). Once you have an approved topic (see over for proposal guidelines), undertake sufficient research such that you can convince your peers to adopt your point of view.

You will receive anonymous, constructive criticism on your presentation-style from two classmates.

Additionally, you will be graded by your instructor according to how well you accomplish the following goals:

- Delivery of material in a clear, concise and professional manner (spoken, rather than read).
- Material builds on and relates strongly to course content.
- Use of visuals.
- Sources clearly identified.
- Success in fostering discussion.
- Presentation shows considerable originality and inventiveness.

Presentation Proposal Guidelines.

One page, due in class on September 15, 2009. This proposal is worth 5% of your final grade.

The presentation: see reverse.

The proposal:

Select a topic about which you feel particularly passionate, and one that complements our course themes. The scale is entirely your choice. It could be an issue limited to the UBC campus, or be as wide as the globe.

Begin your proposal with a couple of sentences that introduce the field you want to explore. Then, get right to the point and present a problem that you want to investigate or a thesis statement that you would like to test. Remember, this is a proposal which means that a lot can change by the time you hand in the final product.

Include some discussion of the sorts of information that you will need, and where/how you anticipate getting this "data." Can you foresee what some of your biggest challenges will be in pursuing your chosen topic?

Remember to set some modest, reasonable goals for yourself here. You are aiming to assemble a mere 15 minute presentation, and not to fill a entire class. If you have any questions then get in touch. I look forward to reading your creative proposals!