

Phys 356 – Class Presentations

Goals: By presenting problems to the class, you will improve your presentation skills and also encourage discussion and group learning by the entire class.

Content: You will be assigned a problem from Griffiths one week before your presentation date. The problem will typically be relevant to the material covered the day of the presentation, so you will need to read ahead in the book to learn how to do it. If you need help, please schedule an appointment with me.

Format: Your presentation will be allotted 15 minutes at the end of class. I will cut you off if you go more than 5 minutes over time. You may use the chalkboard, overhead transparencies, or the computer projector in your presentation, as you wish. Plan to leave time for discussion.

Grading: To encourage discussion by the class, I will avoid making any comments during your presentation. After class, I will email you your grade and any suggestions for improvement that I noted. Each presentation is worth 10 points, 5 based on the correctness of the solution, and 5 on the quality of the presentation.

Not all problems will be equally difficult, so grading for the solution points will be more lenient for harder problems and more strict for easier problems.

I expect the presentation quality to improve over the semester, and grading for the presentation points will reflect this.

Suggestions:

- You can assume that I will have covered any material from the text needed for your problem. Even so, fifteen minutes is not a lot of time. You will probably need to skip some steps, but try to give enough detail that your fellow students could go home and work the problem for themselves without much difficulty.
- The presentations are not intended to be formal, and I won't be grading them as such. Your presentation grade will be based on how good a job you did explaining how to do the problem, not on how polished and professional you were. (Note, there is a place for polish, it's just not what I'm after here.)
- When watching a presentation, be sure to ask questions about things you don't understand. Since I will not participate, it is up to you to catch any mistakes. If a problem is presented incorrectly without comment, I will be tempted to include a similar problem on an exam.
- These guidelines are provisional, and I may need to change them based on how the presentations go. If you have any suggestions for improvements, let me know at any time.