

Group Research and Presentation Project

CIS2010 Spring 2010

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One of the effective teaching and learning methods is investigations done by students themselves. This project is designed to guide students to have a more solid and deeper understanding of the field of information systems through their active participation and knowledge sharing. Each student group will be assigned, or choose, a topic that generally corresponds to the teaching schedule; then the students will conduct some research on the topic, present findings and lead a discussion in the class.

1. Administrative issues

- This is a group assignment. Each group consists of two to four students.
- As part of the learning, you are required to use Google Docs (<http://docs.google.com>) to develop your presentation file.
- The date of your presentation is based on the topic you are assigned. No more than 6 presentations will be scheduled on the same date.
- Each student should notify the instructor his/her group and topic preference (list 2 or 3 topic in your preference order) by the third week. Otherwise students will be assigned a group and a topic.
- Some good presentations will be selected as exemplar presentations and posted online (without student names in them). Please let the instructor know if you don't want to do it.
- To show respect to presenters, all students must attend the class on all three presentation dates. Undocumented absence will be penalized (10 points deduction from your project grade).

2. Selecting a topic and doing research

- A list of potential interesting topics is provided at the end of this document. These topics are arranged into three groups, each with specific research focus. You may choose a topic not on the list, but you must discuss your selected topic with me as early as possible and get my approval.
- Your research and presentation should go beyond the lecture and textbook, bringing in new contents and ideas.
- You may discuss your work plan with the instructor before starting your research; and you are encouraged to do so often during your research and preparation.
- Use the web search effectively to gather materials related to your topic. Develop some sub-topics in a coherent and logical way. Think about and understand the materials you are going to present.

3. Presentation

- You will have minimum 10 minutes to deliver the presentation. Your presentation file should include at least 15 slides.
- You are welcome to use any techniques to make your presentation interesting, such as multimedia (graphics, animation, video clips, sounds, etc.), live demonstration, role-playing, game, etc.
- The presentation should generally include these elements:
 - What you have learned from your readings and research: this could be a description of concepts, facts, stories, practices, history, companies, news, etc.
 - Your idea/opinion and analysis (for example: comparing and contrasting; analyzing the impact; summarizing pros and cons; presenting controversies and arguments; sharing your own ideas and judgments; etc.)
 - *All references and information resources you used.* Describe each resource briefly (with a few words). Just a set of links without additional information is not accepted.
- A separate document on research and presentation tips will be provided.
- On each presentation date, all students must come to the class. Students will vote on "The Best Presentation of the Day". Each member of that group will get 5 bonus points.

4. Grading (50 points total)

Generally, the presentation should be informative and interesting. A separate document on research and presentation tips will be provided. The major grading criteria are:

- Content (25): have you done a good research and study? How much thinking have you put into your presentation? How informative is your presentation?
- Presentation style (15): it is about your presentation style. Do not read slides or your notes. Make the presentation interesting by using examples, videos, demonstrations, etc.
- Presentation slides (10): good presentation slides should be consistent, easy to read, well organized, professionally formatted, etc.
- Other requirements: points will be deducted if any of the following is not met.
 - Minimum number of slides: 15, including everything.
 - Minimum presentation time: 10 minutes.
 - Minimum number of references and resources: 10.
 - You have to use Google Docs Presentation to develop your presentation file. One member should create the file and “Share” it to other member with edit permissions.
- Any student with non-documented absence will lose 5 points for the project.

5. Submission

The presentation file is due within one week after your presentation date (you can continue to edit if you want after your presentation). Submit the link of the presentation slides (using the “Publish” command in Google Presentation) to ULearn. One submission per group. No submission no grade.

Topics

Feb 18, 2010: information technologies and applications

Research/presentation key points:

- Introduce the technology or application as a whole. Avoid focusing on a single product (except #A1-A3); instead, use products as examples.
- Include its history, current status, and future prospect.
- Overview similar or competing technologies, applications, and products; do a comparison and contrast among them.
- Analyze its pros and cons, threats and opportunities. What is the use/impact of such a technologies or application?

Topic #	Topic	Research tips (just tips)
A1	Microsoft Windows	Why is it the dominant OS?
A2	Mac (OS)	Mac vs. Windows
A3	Linux	Can it replace Windows?
A4	Browsers	Which is better?
A5	Netbook	No expensive computer?
A6	Mobile devices	What can they do?
A7	eBook and eReader	Kindle etc.
A8	Web map service	What the best uses?
A9	Digital photography / photo editing	Any techniques?
A10	Voice over IP (internet phone)	Include Skype
A11	Internet television	How will it make money?
A12	Micro blogging	Do you Twitter?

3/25/2010: IT or Internet companies:

Research/presentation key points:

- You can review the company history, corporate culture, stories, anecdotes, etc.
- Discuss its major business, and its major or significant products that the company is providing or provided.
- Evaluate the company. Do you like it?
- Discuss the business environment it is in, its future direction, and your opinions and expectations for the company's current or future plan.

Topic #	Topic	Research tips (just tips)
B1	Microsoft	Why
B2	Apple	Is it a technology company?
B3	IBM	How did IBM transform its business?
B4	CISCO	How will it move to the software business?
B5	HP	What's HP's biggest business?
B6	Intel	Is the dominance a good thing?
B7	Google	Can Google threaten Microsoft?
B8	Yahoo	Can Yahoo survive?
B9	FaceBook	Why is it so hot?
B10	Amazon	What makes Amazon unique?
B11	Dell	No longer a big player?
B12	eBay	Should eBay sell Skype?

4/27/2010: E-business models

Research/presentation key points:

- Study what and how technologies help in these businesses or human activities.
- Introduce or demonstrate relevant notable business models, companies, systems, websites, products, or cases as examples. Compare and contrast them.
- Discuss the people, procedure, technology, and information involved in these systems.
- Any other issues in these businesses or human behaviors.

Topic #	Topic	Research tips (just tips)
C1	Education (E-Learning)	What type of systems are used in learning?
C2	Online grocery shopping	Who's doing it?
C3	eHealth	WebMD, Google Health
C4	Online banking	What major functions are offered?
C5	Advertising on the web	How to measure ad effects online? Google AdSense.
C6	Online recruiting and job search	Which one is the best site?
C7	Media and publishing	Will newspaper disappear some day?
C8	Traveling (online reservation)	Are you managing your trip online?
C9	Freelancing knowledge work	elance.com, odesk.com
C10	E-Government	What can government do online?
C11	Music or movie online	Will they change the distribution model completely?
C12	Online payment services	What are the major methods and products?