

# Group Project: Topic Research and Presentation

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 system integration through their active participation and knowledge sharing. Each student group will be assigned (I will consider your preferences) two topics 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.

## *Specific guidelines:*

### **1. Administrative issues**

- This is a group project. Each group consists of three students. All groups/topics should be determined within the first two weeks.
- You should discuss your work plan with the instructor before starting your research; and you are encouraged to do so often during your research and preparation.
- Every group should submit your work by emailing me your PowerPoint slides. The presentation file is due on your presentation date (you can continue to edit if you want).
- I encourage you to share your presentation materials through your blog site. You can continue to add content to your selected topics.

### **2. Presentation and discussion**

- Presentations will be distributed throughout the semester, according to the topics we will discuss (see the schedule online).
- It is an informal presentation. You will have at least 30 minutes to deliver the presentation and lead the discussion. Each presentation/discussion during the class should not be less than 30 minutes (this should let you do better research and be well prepared :-).
- There is no requirement on presentation style and format. 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, but not limited to:
  - A summary of the story (if it is a piece of news, event or case study); the basic facts and knowledge (if it is concepts and practices related).
  - Background information and key knowledge points (for example, related terms/concepts; the company, product, or the person involved; history; or anything you think is important that the audience need to know).
  - Analysis (for example: comparison; analyzing impact, advantage, weakness, presenting public comments, controversies and arguments; your own ideas and judgments; etc.)
  - Discussion questions: you can plan some discussions during your presentation; it does not have to be at the end after presentation.
  - *All references and information resources you used.*
- Tips for an interesting presentation and ways to facilitate discussion and participation:
  - Ask interesting questions; don't ask hard (cold) questions.
  - Share your personal real life experience, and encourage the audience to share theirs.
  - Let audience ask questions.
  - Hold in-class polls.
  - Doing live demonstrations.
  - Doing small exercises that involve the audience.
  - Present conflicting arguments and ideas.
  - Set up dummy statement and let people judge and debate, or intentionally do something incorrect and let the audience judge.
  - Prepare your own answers to questions and see how people respond.
  - Others ...

### **3. Submission**

- Before the presentation: please create a blog entry on your blog site that includes:
  - Presentation title and date
  - Abstract
  - Reading list and references
- After the presentation: submit the presentation materials before the weekend of your assigned presentation week.
- Note: your presentation will not be graded (or you will lose points) if any of the item above is not completed on time.

### **4. Grading (total 100)**

- Content (20 for each topic): research quality.
- Presentation (20 for each topic): how well do you present in the class? How well do you facilitate the discussion and involve your classmates? These include your in-class presentation performance, speaking, slides, audience response, etc.
- Group evaluation (10): Each student in the same group may receive different grade. Your contribution is reflected in this grade. An evaluation form will be distributed by the end of the semester.
- Hard requirements (5 for each topic)
  - Minimum number of slides: 25, including everything.
  - Minimum presentation time: 30 minutes.
  - Minimum number of references: 10.