

Physics 496

Rubric for Homework #8, Short Science Talk

150 total points—75 points for the accuracy and appropriate level of the scientific content; 50 points for the quality of the slides, and 25 points for professional delivery.

Science Content—75 pts

Background—sets talk in the context of prior work; what’s new.

Methods, results, discussion, conclusions—pitched at an appropriate level for audience; no obvious physics mistakes; logically organized, clear and concise.

Use of motivating statements—slides have a motivating statement at the top of each slide, analogous to the topic sentence of a paragraph, instead of a content-less, generic “title”; e.g., “What we still don’t know about unconventional superconductors” vs. “Background.”

Slides—50 points

Title slide—accessible, engaging title that previews content of talk; no jargon, no undefined acronyms, no equations; attention-grabbing graphic; author’s name, affiliation, date; acknowledgments if required.

Images—clearly enhance the story and emphasize the main points; no “eye candy” and no figures so complicated that the audience cannot understand them in the time they appear on the screen.

Readability—text big enough to read; adequate line spacing between items to prevent text from running together; good balance of text and images; adequate contrast between text and slide background.

Summary slide—last slide recaps the key ideas and main take-away message for the talk; repeats the presenter’s name and contact information.

Slides numbered—inconspicuous but legible slide numbers at the lower right corner of each slide.

Consistency—color, font style, arrangement of text and figures are maintained from slide to slide.

Delivery—25 points

Vocal delivery—sufficient volume; words clearly enunciated; optimum pace maintained; names and technical terms pronounced correctly; conversational tone used.

Eye contact—eye contact with all parts of the audience maintained; did not turn back on audience and read words off the screen.

Laser pointer—pointed with the laser pointer, not with a finger or vague wave of the hand.

Distracting mannerisms—avoided pacing or fidgeting; minimal hand gestures; minimal verbal “fillers” (*er, um, like, y’know*).

Beginning and ending—introduced him-/herself at the beginning of the talk; clearly indicated the end of the talk (“That concludes my presentation. Thank you for your attention. I’ll take questions now.” vs “Well, I guess that’s it.”)

Q & A—Repeated the question; treated questioners with respect; admitted if he/she didn’t know the answer.

Other Comments