

12.307

Oral Presentations, Project Reports and Grading

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1. Oral Presentations

Oral presentations are scheduled at the end of each project and are intended to offer an informal setting in which to:

- discuss results with peers and instructors,
- develop oral presentation skills.

The presentation should be coordinated with your lab group partners (2 or 3 people) and consist of the following:

- a. Introduction
- b. Rotating fluid lab set up: theory/results
- c. Atmospheric examples: theory/results
- d. Connections/conclusion

The order of b. and c. can be swapped, depending on your taste and preferences.

Each student is allowed approximately 10 minutes to summarize and discuss their results. You may use Google Docs or a PowerPoint presentation.

2. Project Report

Students are asked to critically summarize the results of each project in a written Project Report, on which grades will be based. There will be a new project theme every three weeks, a total of four during the semester. Each project comprises an atmospheric data component and a fluids laboratory component. The project report should cover both components and emphasize the connections between the two. Although students may work in groups, each report should be written individually and represent the student's personal interpretation of the results.

Each report should include:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
3. Rotating fluid lab experiments: theory/results

4. Atmospheric examples: theory/results
5. Connections between fluids lab experiment and atmospheric examples
6. Conclusion
7. Suggestions for further improvements
8. References

Emphasis and order of number 3 and 4 can vary. Special effort should be placed on discussing the connection between the fluid lab experiments and the atmospheric examples.

Suggestions for further improvements are welcomed.

Preparation of the report is an iterative process: each student must prepare an initial version during and shortly after the completion of each project (generally due one week after your oral presentation). This is handed in for comments (both on the science content and the writing style) and a preliminary grade is given. The final version of the reports is then submitted by the posted due date and a grade given.

NOTE: Project 4 will consist of a "Dig Deep/Revision" of one aspect of the previous three projects or a project of your choice. The results will be posted as a PowerPoint pdf on the 'Weather in a Tank' wiki.

3. Grading

The final grade for the course will be based on the written reports of Project 1, 2, 3 and the posting of Project 4. Each of these 4 components will be weighted equally to yield the final grade.

The grade for each report will be based on both the initial draft (20%) and the revised project report (80%). If submission deadlines are missed for either draft or final report, there will be a penalty of 1/2 point out of 10 for every day the report is late.

The final grade for the course will be a letter-grade A, B and C, NE (for D and F) and IE (for Incomplete).