

Physics PHYS 275
Experimental Physics Laboratory

ORAL REPORTS

In addition to the written report, an oral report on one of the laboratories is required. You will each speak for 15 minutes about the experiment which you performed. Feel free to make transparencies, show slides, or use any other means which you believe will get your message across as clearly as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Your talk should include the following:

1. some sort of outline at the start of your talk.
2. an introduction to the topic including motivation.
3. a discussion of the theoretical model being tested.
4. a description of the experiment and apparatus.
5. a discussion of the sources and magnitude of uncertainty in measurements.
6. results.
7. “the bottom line”.

Notice that:

1. The oral reports will be presented on approximately alternate weeks as shown in the syllabus.
2. Students not making presentations are nevertheless expected to attend. **Attendance will be taken.**
3. Also, following each presentation questions will be allowed. **Extra credit points will be given to those students who ask carefully thought out, challenging questions.**

Some Hints:

1. **Be concise.** Consider every word you say careful. Think about the precise meaning of what you are saying, and how that compares with what you meant to say, and whether there is a briefer way to say what you mean to say.
2. **Practice, practice, practice (then practice some more).** Don't just say whatever you think of when you get up there. Practice your talk several times beforehand. Make sure it is exactly 10 minutes long.
3. Get someone else to listen to you practice if you can. Listen to what they tell you afterwards.
4. If you are not naturally funny, don't try to be. Use jokes only if you are very confident how they will come off. Remember also that you don't have much time to present a large amount of material.
5. Try to be enthusiastic, and confident. If you have practiced your talk, this should be easier.