

Peer Critiquing of Research Projects

Now that you have completed your research for your question/topic, prepared your report and presentation, and assessed your own work, you are ready to see and hear the research projects developed by your classmates. You will not be a passive observer, however. You will have an important role—to provide constructive feedback to your peers about their projects and their presentations.

Critiquing a project does *not* involve commenting on what might have been or should have been. It involves reacting to what you see and hear. For example, pay attention to

- strengths and weaknesses of the presentation.
- problems or concerns with the presentation.

Think of suggestions you could make to help your classmate improve future presentations.



While observing each presentation, consider the content, the organization, and the delivery. Take notes during the presentation, using the following rating scales as a guide. You can also use these scales to evaluate the presentation.

Content

Shows a clear sense of audience and purpose.	5	4	3	2	1
Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic.	5	4	3	2	1
Clearly and concisely explains ideas.	5	4	3	2	1
Applies mathematical knowledge and skills developed in this course.	5	4	3	2	1
Justifies conclusions with sound mathematical reasoning.	5	4	3	2	1
Uses mathematical terms and symbols correctly.	5	4	3	2	1

Organization

Presentation is clearly focused.	5	4	3	2	1
Engaging introduction includes the research question, clearly stated.	5	4	3	2	1
Key ideas and information are logically presented.	5	4	3	2	1
There are effective transitions between ideas and information.	5	4	3	2	1
Conclusion follows logically from the analysis and relates to the question.	5	4	3	2	1

Delivery

Speaking voice is clear, relaxed, and audible.	5	4	3	2	1
Pacing is appropriate and effective for the allotted time.	5	4	3	2	1
Technology is used effectively.	5	4	3	2	1
Visuals and handouts are easily understood.	5	4	3	2	1
Responses to audience's questions show a thorough understanding of the topic.	5	4	3	2	1

Keep these rating scales in mind as you prepare your own presentation.

Your Turn

- Think of an excellent presentation you have observed. List five aspects of this presentation that made it effective.
- What are some common difficulties that students encounter when giving presentations to their peers? Suggest how each of these difficulties could be avoided or dealt with.
- When critiquing a presentation, it is essential that you do not allow your own opinions about the topic to influence your analysis. Explain why.