

## Seminar Presentation

**Description** Students work individually, or in teams, to investigate a topic relevant to the course and present their findings in the form of a seminar. There are other variations of the seminar presentation. Although seminars are very similar in format, there can be many alternatives in grading methods. For instance,

- Who grades - Teacher only? Peer? External assessor involved? Self?
- Performance aspects – Content only? Generic skills like communication, teamwork, artwork, etc.?
- What kind of grade – Team only? Team plus individual?

### **Example 1** *Oral Presentation Grading Criteria*

Present a 45-minute oral seminar on a subject pertaining to this course. You will be assessed on the following criteria – organisation, style, use of communication aids, depth of content, accuracy of content, use of language (grammar, word choice, freedom from biases, etc.), personal appearance, and responsiveness to audience.

### **Example 2** *Poster Presentation Grading Criteria*

Present your research on a 6' x 3' poster board. You will be graded on the following criteria – overall appearance, white space, text/ graphics balance, text size, organisation and flow, author identification, research objective, main points, and summary.

### **What Outcomes are Assessed?**

- Broaden the scope of your assessment in terms of intended learning outcomes. Typically, we assess only declarative knowledge construction in seminars and presentations; however, presentation is also an excellent method to assess other generic skills like communication, language skills, teamwork, functioning knowledge (how-to), and so on. For instance, the assessment criteria of Example 1 encompass many generic skills, including language skills, interpersonal communication, as well as quality of visual aids and handouts.
- The assessment criteria of Example 2 focus on communicating research findings and effective poster design techniques.

### **How Authentic is the Task?**

- The topic of the study may or may not be authentic.
- Presentations are often used in the professional context. Business people make customer presentations, management presentations and training presentations on a regular basis.

### **What Kind of Learning is Promoted?**

- Presentations foster deep thinking. When one has to communicate a complex idea to others with limited time and space, there is always a challenge to present the idea in a lucid and succinct way.
- Most presentation assignments are team-based and promote collaborative learning.