

Overview

You will deliver a 1-minute oral summary of the advantages and disadvantages of a particular technology in a mock meeting with the class as audience. You will be assigned to review a specific technology, and you will research that technology before the mock meeting. The purpose of the mock meeting will be to decide which technology is the best solution to a given problem. The purpose of one mock meeting might be to decide the best carbon-free energy source for the future, for example. One student would discuss wind power, another would discuss solar power, and so forth. After each student presents their ideas, the manager will ask a few follow-up questions. After all the presentations, the manager will decide which technology appears to be the most promising.

Before the meeting, you should prepare a short written summary of your ideas. (*You will not be allowed to read from notes during the meeting, however.*) This assignment requires you to sort through technical information and summarize the most important points so that others can understand it.

Summary Contents

Your 5-minute summary should include the following elements:

- Topic sentence (summarizing the entire project, its purpose and success)
- Background and context
- Methodology (general description only)
- Important results
- Larger implications, or problems yet to be solved

Meeting Topics

- 1) Decide best carbon-free energy source:
wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, or nuclear
- 2) Decide most likely future computing technology:
quantum computer, nano-tubes, optical, biological neurons, IC's special materials
- 3) Decide on best internet access:
DSL, iPhone, cable modem, U of U wireless, satellite
- 4) Decide which Darpa Urban Challenge team is best:
(See <http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/index.asp>)
MIT, Stanford Racing Team, University of Utah, Team Caltech, Princeton
- 5) Decide which launch technology for space flight is best:
space elevator, electromagnetic gun, chemical, drop from plane, from balloon
- 6) Decide which electronic voting machine is best:
(See <http://www.verifiedvotingfoundation.org/article.php?id=6028>)
AccuPoll AVS 1000, Avante Vote Trakker, Diebold Accuvote TX,
ES&S AutoMark, Hart Intercivic eSlate, Seuoia Advantage

Grading Criteria

- 1) Content complete (see bullet items above under "Summary Contents")
- 2) Relevance of information presented
- 3) Organization
- 4) Prioritization of content
- 5) Simplification of technical terms and processes
- 6) Knowledge of topic
- 7) Speaking skills (choice of words, creation of context, awareness of audience, confidence, professionalism, persuasiveness)