

FAQs for PDR Presentations

1. Q: What is the purpose of the PDR presentation?

A: The purpose of the PDR is to communicate the technical details of the design and to present problems/challenges/issues with the design. This is a highly technical presentation whereby you show and explain what you are designing. The audience expects to see circuitry diagrams, GUI screens, flow charts, schematics, illustrations, and anything else that shows what you are building/designing/creating.

2. Q: Is the PDR an explanation of our project? What information are we supposed to present in ~10 minutes?

A: The PDR will include a brief overview of your project and the design objectives, but the focus of the presentation is to communicate the technical details of the design. Generally speaking, the PowerPoint slides will be organized as follows. All teams should check with their PA to find out what he/she expects in the PDR.

- 1st slide: Title slide
 - 2nd slide: Brief overview of project (what, why, who, cost)
 - 3rd slide: Design objectives
 - 4th slide: Current status (what you have completed up to this point)
-
- Bulk of slides showing and explaining the design and discussing problems
-
- Slide(s) analyzing design and technical approach (advantages/disadvantages)
 - Slide(s) explaining marketing and cost*
 - Slide explaining future work (be specific—"order parts and test hardware" are too vague)
-
- *Some Project Advisors have explicitly told students to include this info. It is not required—check with your PA if you are in doubt.

3. Q: How long is the presentation?

A: Approximately 10 minutes. Check with your PA for the specific time limit for your section.

4. Q: How are we being graded? Who is grading us?

A: You'll receive two grades: individual and group. PAs are grading the presentations.

5. Q: How can we pull off a polished presentation with multiple speakers?

A: Coordinate everything with the group: attire, slide content, timing of individual portions, and answering questions. Practice as a group and individually. Stay within the time frame specified by your PA. Practice. A lot.

6. Q: Can we use notes to help us remember what to say?

A: No. You should use the slides as a prompt. You should be fluent in your subject matter by this point, making note cards unnecessary.

7. Q: Where can we practice our presentation? Who do we go to for help on our slides? Can anyone help us polish our presentation skills?

A: The ECE Communication Studio (VL 448) has a state-of-the-art rehearsal room equipped with video capture technology so that you can record, play back, and critique yourself and your team members. To reserve the Presentation Rehearsal Room in the Studio, use the online reservation system on the UPCP website. Christina Bourgeois and your Project Advisor will be happy to work with you on slide content and organization. Bourgeois is available by appointment to work with individuals or groups who want to rehearse.