

## GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT PAPER & PRESENTATION

The empirical methods presentation asks you to communicate a lot of information in a short period of time, so you will need to organize your talk carefully. The goal of the presentation is to give the other students---who have not read any background material on your project---an idea of (1) what your project is about, (2) what empirical/computational techniques you use, and (3) how they can learn more about those techniques. The goal of the project paper is to communicate these same things to your instructor and any of your interested fellow students.

Please make sure to discuss the following points in the paper and presentation:

1. Motivation: What is the goal of your project. If it is a replication, what was the goal of the original paper?
2. Approach: Describe the underlying model of the paper that will be used for computation analysis. How can it be used to address the paper's goal? What important assumptions are being made?
3. Issue: what is the key computational challenge in analyzing (solving/estimating/calibrating) your model.
4. Technique: How is the issue addressed? Are other possibilities available? If so, why is this one best. Where can we learn more about the technique?
5. Results: Provide your evaluation of how the technique works. How successful was your replication? How much computing or programming time did it take? Et cetera.

For the presentation, you have 25 minutes total (including setup and transitions!), plan for 18. Points 3 and 4 above are the heart of the presentation, but remember they will be difficult if not impossible to follow unless you adequately discuss 1 and 2. For different projects, you will want to spend more time on some parts than others. If yours is a paper that is very well known or covered in some other class, you may be able to spend less time on motivation. Alternatively, if your primary technique is something that we covered in class, that part should take less time.

A key part of a successful presentation will be budgeting your time across these five elements appropriately. You should explicitly budget your time across these categories before preparing your presentation.

NOTE: If you would like to revise your initial rough draft prior to your presentation, you may turn in the revision no later than the noon on the Monday prior to your presentation. After looking at this draft and your presentation I will provide feedback for the final version.