

CSC 450, Lab Meeting #1 Rubric

Lab meetings are forums where researchers present and discuss their work, gaining feedback on how to improve their research and how to overcome any obstacles that they face.

For the audience, the purpose of the lab meeting is to learn about ongoing research projects, and to stay up-to-date with questions being asked and methods and tools that are being developed; for the presenters, the lab meeting is a chance to make sure that their projects are on track, that the research problem has maximum impact, and that the methodology is sound. A presenter should use the opportunity to provide background about the research project, and ask questions so that their project will be improved. For example, a presenter might ask, *what tools are available to develop agent-based models for simulations?* For these reasons, lab meetings should be relatively informal and should involve lots of discussion.

Your first lab meeting presentation will consist of three components:

1. Presentation of a *research* article related to your project that includes (1) relevant background; (2), a description of at least 1 figure/table from the paper describing a main result and the corresponding methods; (3) conclusions including any weaknesses or limitations of the paper.
2. A description of your research project that includes (1) the main objective and/or specific questions you plan to answer, if known, and (2) the general methodology you will use. If you are not sure what your objective will be at this point, then possible objectives should be stated so that we can discuss them.
3. Questions for the audience related to your project

Presenters must submit their Lab Meeting presentations through Blackboard prior to the beginning of class. Failure to do this will result in a deduction of 10 points. For those working in groups, each person must present their own Research Article, and it is recommended that all individuals combine their articles into a single power point presentation that is uploaded by one group member. Lab meeting presentations will be evaluated using the rubric on the following page.

In addition, after your presentation we will continue to discuss our research projects on Piazza. *Before* your presentation, you must post a “Question” on Piazza that states your name and general research topic, and that includes a link to the article that you plan to discuss. Optionally you may post specific questions about your research project that will help you refine your topic or carry out your research.

	Component	Points	Poor (D-F range)	Average (C range)	Excellent (A range)
Research Article (~ 5 minutes / person)	Title Page	10	-	-	Contains screenshot of article title, your name, date of presentation, and a URL of the article
	Background (1 slide)	10	Slide and/or explanations are missing.	Not all background is explained or the explanation or article objective are not clear.	Background relevant for understanding the project, such as terminology, is clearly explained. The objective of the paper is clearly stated.
	Results (1-2 slides)	15	Section is missing or figure/table or methods cannot be understood.	The figure/table or methods are not clearly explained.	At least one figure or table from the article is presented (shown in a screenshot) and clearly described. The explanation includes the relevant methods leading to the results that are presented.
	Conclusions (1 slide)	15	Section is missing or description cannot be understood.	Conclusions or weaknesses or limitations are not explained clearly.	The major conclusions of the article are clearly stated, including any weaknesses or limitations.
Research Project (~ 5 minutes per group)	Title Page	5	-	-	A tentative title describing your research project or topic is provided, with the names of all group members
	Background (1 slide)	15	Background is not provided.	Not all background is explained or explanation is not clear.	Background related to your project is clearly explained
	Proposed Project (1-2 slides)	15	No project description or (possible) methods are given.	Either the research objective, question, or topic, or methods are described but not explained clearly.	The proposed research objective, question, or topic is clearly described, as well as (possible) methods that will be used.
	Questions (1 slide)	15	No questions are asked about your research objective or relevant methodology.	Only 2 questions are asked about your research objective or relevant methodology.	The slide includes at least 3 questions for the audience, related to your research objective, and/or methodology, that will help you carry out or improve your project.