

Session 25: Project Discussion

The following exercise is designed to help you zoom out from the complexities of the project and to obtain a coherent big picture view, which is more important at this point than figuring out all the details.

In-Class Group Exercise (30 minutes)

Make a 3-minute presentation with the following 3 slides, and submit on Blackboard within 30 minutes. Every group will present their slides in the second half of the class (not every group member has to speak).

Your slides should be as simple as possible, using few words, large font, no equations, and no extraneous graphics. Think of slides as visual aid: if there's something you can present verbally without needing the slide, then don't include it on the slide. Your language should be as simple, precise, and clear as possible, being understandable by a senior manager without a technical background.

Slide 1: Opportunity for Improvement

What is the biggest opportunity for improvement that you have identified and would like to address in this project? Why do you think there is a significant and compelling opportunity?

Slide 2: Vision for Optimization Tool

At a high level, who would be using your optimization tool and what inputs would he/she need? What is the output of the tool? How should the person interpret the outputs and incorporate into his/her workflow?

Slide 3: Overview of Optimization Formulation

Describe in English the decision, objective, and constraints of your optimization. You do not need to go over all the constraints in detail but a succinct high-level summary suffices. Justify why this optimization formulation appropriately addresses the opportunity of improvement you identified, and how it capture the most important issues.