

CSCI544: Research Paper Presentation

Performed during the class

The research article presentation is an activity where project teams read an article of their choice and present it to the class. The article can be on any aspect of natural language processing. It does not have to be related to the team's project but it's encouraged that you select a paper that you can base your project on its content. You will read the article, identify the central points of the research, and present that research to the class. You will also comment on research article presentations of fellow students.

Choosing a Research Article

After forming your project team, select an article for presentation and put the title and link on the shared spreadsheet. Make sure that no other team has selected the same article (the earlier you choose, the more options are available to you). Even if you do not have a group yet, you can have personal candidate papers that later you can offer to your group members.

The paper should be selected from the list of long papers published in the EMNLP, NAACL, ACL, Findings of ACL, and Findings of NAACL conferences during the past 3 years. Please do your best to limit yourself to these conferences but if there is a particular paper from other good conferences such as CVPR, NeurIP, or ICML such that it aligns much better with your interests, it is fine you present that paper. Try picking an article which has an interesting theme, point, or result.

The theme for the presentation does not have to cover the entire article. Remember that the audience would like to learn something new and interesting. Pick a theme that can be presented within the allotted time to an audience with the background covered in class.

Presenting a Research Article

Each team has a slot of 9 minutes. For example, you can prepare 9 slides and one 1 minute per slide. But you can use a different number of slides.

You will be penalized if the presentation goes beyond the time limit of 9 minutes. Practice your presentation to make sure it fits within the allotted time. It is important to learn the skill of presenting complex ideas in a short time.

Presentations can involve the entire project team or a subset of the team. It's your choice to divide the tasks that you do as a group. Bear in mind that in real-life teams, you need to act similarly and not everyone will do the same task.

The audience has not read the article: assume no prior knowledge of the topic on their part. You may assume knowledge of all the methods and techniques covered in class so far, but not much beyond that; if the article uses a new method or technique, explain it.

Concentrate on presenting the main idea of the article. Present enough details and results to support the main idea, but don't get into such detail that the main idea gets lost. It is often possible to explain complex methods using relatively simple ideas.

The final minute/slide of the presentation should include some critical evaluation of the article's content. This is your evaluation of the article, not the article's evaluation section. The goal is for you to think how the paper can be improved so you can use it as a basis for your project. The critique should relate to content, not writing style. Some examples:

- (i) Did you notice any flaws in the reasoning, evidence, conclusions?
- (ii) Do you know of other facts that are relevant to this study?
- (iii) Does this relate to something else you have studied or observed?
- (iv) Can you think of a good follow-up?