Oral presentation | Academic Literacies for Scientists | University of Antwerp | 2025-2026

Assignment 2 accounts for 30% of your final mark for this course.

Marking rubric for oral presentation

Criteria	Excellent (8 or 7)	Good (6 or 5)	Average (4 or 3)	Lackluster (2-0)
Content (8)	Subject is valuable and relevant; talk makes a significant contribution to audience's knowledge	Talk addresses an important subject and speaker shows an understanding of the subject	Subject does not relate to audience's needs or interests, gaps in knowledge evident	Talk may be completely off topic or inappropriate
	Purpose is clear; material is tailored to audience; the right degree of specialized terms are defined and explained	The purpose of the talk is stated and fulfilled; suitable degree of specialized terms are defined	The purpose of the talk is unclear; judgment of specialized terms to explain lacking	The purpose of the talk is not stated or fulfilled
	Ideas are developed; points are selective and supported; takeaways are clear	and explained The main idea is evident but main points may not always be clear or fully supported.	Ideas are not focused or developed; main points are difficult to identify and supporting material is undeveloped or irrelevant	Ideas and main points are confusing, conflicting; lack of synthesis of content clearly evident
	Visual aids augment the speech without overwhelming or distracting the speaker or the audience	Visual aids generally support the talk but may not add significant value to it	Visual aids may be excessive or limited; they sometimes detract from the talk	Visual aids may be excessive or limited; they generally detract from the talk
	Q&A is confident, engaging, thorough, succinct, and adds value to the presentation	Q&A is engaging and thorough, with very few lapses, vagueness and/or lengthiness	Q&A is largely adequate, but clarity, concision and articulation slightly lacking	Q&A is rather inadequate; lack of content knowledge evident
Structure (7)	Introduction captures attention; transitions are smooth; conclusion is compelling and memorable	Introduction and conclusion are serviceable; transitions may be awkward.	Introduction is ineffective, conclusion is abrupt, and transitions are missing.	Talk is clearly unprepared; it may consist only of jumbled information. The speaker has not synthesized information into

	Organization reflects, supports and reinforces content, message and purpose	Organization may be conventional but is made explicit enough for audience to follow	Talk may make sense, but distinct parts are not readily identifiable	a meaningful structure
	Main and supporting points are organized in a unified, balanced, and cogent way	All points are covered but perhaps not in the most effective order or with the necessary emphasis	Organization does not contribute to audience's understanding of the material; the lack of organization serves to confuse	
	Talk progresses in a logical and convincing fashion; transitions aid in linking ideas	Talk's structure is functional and the speaker demonstrates above average skills at preparing and organizing information		
	Talk is well-timed +/- 7 mins	Talk is generally well-timed; might have been cut off or shorter than expected (<6:20) but content does not suffer	Content of talk suffers from time mismanagement	
Delivery (8)	Delivery strengthens the impact of the talk and aids in audience reception; style fits learning pattern of audience	Delivery is generally effective but does not significantly contribute to audience's experience or understanding	The delivery undermines or is noticeably inconsistent with the message	Speaker is unresponsive to the audience; demeanor is unprofessional and inappropriate
	Verbal expression is clear, comprehensible, and articulate	Verbal expression is proficient but some inconsistency in skills may be observed	Verbal expression is unsophisticated: speaker may mumble or use many filler terms	Language may be hostile or alienating
	Non-verbal expression is natural and non-distracting; gestures and sustained eye contact engage the audience and reinforce the message	Non- verbal expression is evident and does not detract from the message	Non-verbal expression is distracting and may indicate lack of preparation or extreme nervousness	Poise and composure is lost and speaker is unable to complete the basic assignment

	Speaker projects confidence, enthusiasm, professionalism, and energy	Speaker is largely confident and professional, but may display some hesitancy or nervousness	Speaker displays obvious signs of hesitancy or nervousness	
	Speaker is well- prepared and polished, in control of the material, fully aware of the audience and responsive to feedback	The talk may seem written and memorized at points; some over-reliance on notes observed; responsiveness to the audience is adequate but could be improved	Over dependence on notes is observed; visual aids may overwhelm the speaker and distract the audience	Speaker resorts to reading a talk.
Language (7)	Language is precise, vivid, and appropriate for the setting and context Pronunciation is accurate and completely	Language is appropriate but may not be particularly vivid or precise Pronunciation is largely accurate with minor slips	Language choices are ineffective or limited Pronunciation is rather inaccurate with major slips	Suitability of language is grossly misjudged
	comprehensible No spelling & grammar mistakes; lexicon & syntax fully adequate	Minimal spelling & grammar mistakes; lexicon & syntax with only few minor lapses	Noticeable spelling and grammar mistakes; lexicon & syntax rather inadequate	Excessive spelling and/or grammar mistakes; lexicon & syntax lacking