

21W.011 ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON WRITING ISSUES FALL 2015

As a CI-HW subject, 21W.011 has an oral presentation component. Our focus in these short oral presentations (15 min.) will be on strategies for effective writing in both narrative and investigative research essays; students will do presentations in pairs. Our goal in these presentations is to improve your skills in developing, organizing and presenting material orally to audiences.

Presentation pairs are encouraged to select topics particularly relevant for them as writers. These topics can be general issues, such as dealing with writer's block or procrastination tendencies. Presentations can also focus on specific issues such as writing dialogue, crafting intros and conclusions, using metaphors, editing choppy and run-on sentences, avoiding clichés or correcting common grammatical and usage errors (e.g., using commas and semicolons effectively, avoiding homophone errors, etc.).

Proposal: Due Monday 9/28. Students will first submit a short (1 pg.) proposal over email, listing **TWO** possible topics and your reasons for choosing them, your presentation partner (if you have one) and **TWO** possible presentation dates. The available dates for presentations are listed on the topics handout. If you do not have a presentation partner, we will pair you with another student.

Process:

Pre-Presentation: Students (as a pair) are required to meet with Louise Harrison Lepera in the process of planning their presentations. In addition, students are asked to email a presentation plan/outline to me and Louise Harrison Lepera for feedback at least **a week before** the presentation. **Post-Presentation:** A week after the presentation, email any presentation slides (e.g., Powerpoint or Prezi) as well as a **joint self-evaluation** of the quality of pre-presentation preparation, delivery and handouts/materials distributed to the class. (You are not required to produce presentation slides, although some students find them helpful.) Self-evaluations are due over email **a week after** the presentation.

Each student pair will present one or two writing issues to the class; your joint presentation should be about 15 minutes long. For each presentation, the students will write, photocopy and distribute a well-designed sheet of information on their topic. The sheet should include several examples that demonstrate the problem or describe the issue and strategies for resolving or correcting it. **Use creativity and humor in your presentations.** In the last section of your presentation, be sure to give your classmates adequate time to correct the problem or discuss the issue through an exercise(s). If possible, when creating handouts, try to pick examples from your own writing or create sentences that relate to MIT life. In addition to *Easy Writer*, I have several writing guides that are available for borrowing. Also check the library's electronic resources, the course website and the Writing Center website for additional weblinks and resources. **Be sure to author your own information sheets and exercises; if quoting from sources, include citation information in your handouts. If you are using A-V projection, check that your computer connections and A-V in 8-119 are working the day before your talk. When using a MAC, you will need a special connector ("dongle").**

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21W.011 Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues
Fall 2015

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