

Research Paper Presentation

Purpose:

This assignment is designed to...

- Hone your database usage and research skills
- Provide experience reading, interpreting and presenting scientific papers
- Draw connections with course material to your interest or major

Task:

Duties of presenter:

- 1) Find a current (within the past 15 years) peer-reviewed research paper, or a popular press article that references a peer-reviewed paper, related to any topic in this course. I encourage you to find an article that relates to your personal interests or major. For example, if you are interested in trade or early economics, you might choose:
Horan, R. D., Bulte E. H. and Shogren, J. F. (2008). Coevolution of human speech and trade. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 13 (4), pp. 293-313.
Get approval from Laura, in person or via e-mail, before moving on.
- 2) Read the article. Take note of
 - main ideas
 - methods (if there are any)
 - questions you have as you are reading
 - connections to course material. Does the paper support, contradict or add depth to what we've learned?
- 3) Prepare some notes for an approx. 5 minute informal presentation of the article. **Be sure to** summarize the main ideas, the methods (if there are any) and connections to course material. If your presentation requires use of PowerPoint let Laura know.

Duties of audience:

- 1) Listen carefully to the presenter. Draw connections to the course material and/or your own experience.
- 2) Generate **at least one** relevant question or discussion point for the presenter or for the class. For example, with article above an appropriate discussion point might be "How do you think early humans dealt with differences in language?"

Grading:

This assignment will count as 40 points toward your homework grade, broken down as follows:

Acquisition of an appropriate paper or article - 10 points

Presentation (hit on points listed above, encourage discussion) - 20 points

Participation in discussion - 10 points