

Talk Guidelines
Math 470W.01
Methods of Research
Spring, 2008

The first project for the semester is to pick a research topic, perform the required research and produce an oral presentation, including overhead transparencies for the talk. The oral presentation will be given during the student talk sessions of the meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America in Stephenville, TX which occurs April 3-5, 2008. The following guidelines and due dates provide guidelines for the “Oral Presentation” portion of your course grade.

There are very few guidelines for picking a topic. Any mathematical topic can be acceptable. You should meet with me at least once to discuss your topic before the topic deadline (see below). Every talk must include a proof of some mathematical idea, even if you are presenting a biographical talk.

The talks are fifteen minutes long. You should plan your talk to be at least 12 minutes, and no more than 16 minutes. There is a five minute break between presentations at the Texas Section meeting. Therefore on days when we are holding practice talks, that will be the format that we follow. Everyone will be expected to practice their presentation, including having slides prepared, at least twice before the Texas Section meeting. Sign up sheets will be provided early in the semester. You should be present for all practice talks, even if you are not practicing that day. Your comments are not only part of your grade, but will be valuable for the other students who are practicing.

- Topic for research project due Tuesday, January 24th, including at least three sources. At least one of these sources must NOT be a website.
- Abstract for oral presentation (in LaTeX) due via e-mail by Thursday, February 21st.
- Abstract must be submitted online (see me in my office to do this) by Thursday February 28th.
- First round of practice talks (four per class) on February 21, February 26, and February 28. After you present your talk in class, you must make an appointment to discuss your presentation with me.
- Spring Break March 10 - 14. No Classes.
- Second round of practice talks (four per class) on March 18, March 20, and March 25. After you present your talk in class, you must make an appointment to discuss your presentation with me.
- Final version of slides due by Tuesday March 25th.
- Oral Presentation at student talk sessions of the meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America in Stephenville, TX on Friday, April 4th.