CH 223 CLASS PRESENTATIONS FAQ

FAQ = Frequently Asked Questions

When: May 5 (Tuesday) or May 6 (Wednesday)

What: A chance to share knowledge with your classmates and the MHCC community

Who: Everyone enrolled in CH 223 (All Sections)

What topic should I pick? For CH 223, the topic will be a topic in science that interests you. Find a research-quality scientific topic to investigate and complete a report on the topic. All topics must be approved by Dr. Russell using the online form at http://mhchem.org/cp223

Once your topic has been approved and reserved, begin researching interesting information on the topic using the library, internet, etc. You will be preparing a paper on your topic and presenting your work to the class in a short (five minute) presentation.

If you need to change your class presentation topic after the second week of class for any reason you will be penalized 20 points; hence, it's best to reserve a topic early and start researching promptly. Also, if you still have not reserved a topic by the end of the third week, you will be penalized 20 points for tardiness.

What should I know when writing the paper? Prepare a paper that is at least five full pages of text on your reserved topic. Diagrams, pictures, and other graphics are wonderful, but you will need five full pages of writing for complete credit.

The paper should include a separate cover sheet with the title of your presentation and your name. The paper must be neat, typed, referenced, and interesting to read; spelling and grammar will count. The paper must use a "reasonable" font and font size (Times New Roman, Arial, etc. with size 12 or less); in addition, use 1" margins or less (I will measure!) and no more than "one and a half" spaced type (less than double spaced.) If unsure, ask the instructor.

The paper should also include a separate page at the end with a list of references. References within the paper and at the end should adhere to the "Class Presentations Citation Guide" (found here: http://mhchem.org/cg) For an example paper, see: http://mhchem.org/expaper

An important aspect of this assignment is to ensure scientific relevancy. To this end, find two peer reviewed scientific articles published within the last ten years that include a reference to your topic. Include the abstracts of these papers with your final Class Presentation paper.

How do I find my two peer reviewed scientific articles? A sure-fire way to access peer-reviewed scientific articles is through the MHCC library's article databases. Go here (https://libguides.mhcc.edu/chemistryguide - you may have to enter your MyMHCC username and password if you are off campus). Select Articles (on the left), then select ScienceDirect College Edition (under "Chemistry Databases") or Academic Search Complete (under "General Databases"), then search for your topic. Remember, your article citation should include the author(s), year of publication, journal title, title of paper, page number(s), volume of journal, etc. and you will need to include the abstract from the peer reviewed article (but not the entire article!) in your report.

Once you conduct a search for your presentation topic, you will likely have a mix of citation/abstract-only and citation/abstract + full-text (whole article) results. You only need the abstract for your paper - do not include the full article. Here is an example of a peer-reviewed scientific paper with an abstract: http://mhchem.org/abstr

Tell me about the Class Presentation Rough Draft Paper During the fourth week, you will be submitting a rough draft of your class presentation paper to the instructor. Ideally this will be the paper in a mostly complete format, but at the very least, two typed pages of text should be submitted.

The rough draft does not require a cover sheet or a separate list of references. However, you should have at least one peer reviewed scientific paper ready to submit with your rough draft. Use the Rough Draft Class Presentation form when submitting to avoid a five-point penalty (http://mhchem.org/rd3) The Rough Draft paper is worth 20 points (out of 100 total.)
What should I know when preparing for the presentation?

You will present a five-minute presentation on your chosen subject to the class and anyone who wishes to attend. The presentation must be well prepared and interesting; sloppy preparation shows in the presentation portion. Students can use videos, presentation software (PowerPoint, etc.), posters and chalk to enhance their presentation. Presentation software users will be limited to a maximum of six slides; more invokes a penalty.

Please note that using your paper (or a copy of your paper) during the presentation will result in a ten-point penalty. This will prevent you from "reading" your presentation to the audience.

How will I be graded?

There are 100 points total for this project. 40 points will reflect the work presented in the paper, 40 points will reflect the work done in the presentation and 20 points will be given for completing the peer review process on time.

In addition, failure to turn in the "Class Presentation Reviewer Guide" to the instructor at the end of the day of presentations will result in a ten-point penalty. You will be completing the Reviewer Guide while others are giving their presentations. If curious, you can view this guide on our website (http://mhchem.org/cp223info).

Late class presentation papers will result in a five-point penalty per day.

Plagiarism discovered from any source will result in an overall Class Presentation grade of zero.

A sample Class Presentation Grading Rubric is available for viewing on the CH 223 website (http://mhchem.org/cgr3). The rubric will allow you to look at the items deemed most important when grading your Class Presentation.

Note that your attendance is required on the day of presentations, and if you are not present for at least 95% of your normally scheduled lab period, you will lose half of your assigned grade.

How do I get started?  

Step 1: Reserve your Class Presentation Topic

Decide on a scientific topic that interest you, then email the instructor or complete the online web form to reserve your topic: http://mhchem.org/cp223

You should receive a response from Dr. Russell within 48 hours after the beginning of the second week of class; if you do not, email him directly at mike.russell@mhcc.edu. Be sure to include alternate topics in case your first choice has already been claimed; he can also pick one for you if you are uncertain which topic to pick. Reserve your class presentation topic by the end of the second week, April 10 at 9 AM. You can see which topics are still available here: http://mhchem.org/223av

Step 2: Turn in the Class Presentation Rough Draft Paper

The Class Presentation Rough Draft paper should include at least two typed pages and one peer reviewed scientific article using the handout (http://mhchem.org/rd3) at the beginning of your recitation period: April 21 (Tuesday) or April 22 (Wednesday).

Step 3: Give the Class Presentation and turn in your final Class Presentation paper

At the time of your Class Presentation, turn in your final Class Presentation paper (with copies of the abstracts of your two peer reviewed scientific papers on separate pieces of paper in proper citation format and give your class presentation during the following lab period: May 5 (Tuesday) or May 6 (Wednesday)

Before you present and submit your paper, check out the reminders contained within the “Class Presentation ‘Last Minute’ Checklist”, found here: http://mhchem.org/cpcs Note that you must both present your work and submit your paper to receive any points on this assignment. Also, you cannot “re-use” a Class Presentation topic from CH 221 or CH 222 in CH 223…. these topics must be original for full credit. Finally, the MHCC Librarians keep a webpage devoted to chemistry... it might be worth viewing as a research tool, and it is found here: http://mhchem.org/libchem

If you have any questions, see this site (http://mhchem.org/cp223info) or contact the instructor.
Name: ________________________________

CH 223 CLASS PRESENTATIONS ROUGH DRAFT PAPER
Staple this form to the top of your Rough Draft Class Presentation Paper for full credit

Lab Section:

Reserved Topic:

Directions:

• This assignment is worth 20 points out of the 100 points assigned to the Class Presentation assignment.
• Include at least two typed pages of your Class Presentation report with this form (more is fine!)
• Include at least one abstract from a peer reviewed scientific article with a proper citation included (more is fine!)
• This page should be stapled to the top of the other pages in this assignment to avoid a five-point penalty

Helpful Resources:

• The CH 223 Class Presentation Frequently Asked Questions handout: http://mhchem.org/faq3
• The CH 223 Citation Guide: http://mhchem.org/cg

Class Presentation Rough Draft Paper Due Dates:

• Section 01 (Tuesday): April 21 at 8:00 AM
• Section 02 (Tuesday): April 21 at 1:10 PM
• Section H1 (Wednesday): April 22 at 1:10 PM

The final Class Presentation paper will be due during Week 6 in Chemistry 223.