**Explanatory Presentation**

**Main page content**

**Overview of Explanation Project**

Our second course objective is to effectively explain complex ideas to non-experts. We are often asked to explain concepts to others and as we grow more knowledgable about subjects, it becomes increasingly crucial that we be able to share that knowledge with others regardless what they do and do not know about the topic.

**Purpose**

Your goal for this project is to explain a single concept to a listener from your class so that they can summarize your presentation by reiterating the main points of your explanation. Rather than being a formal speech, this assignment is a conversation in which you share information with your listener helping them to understand a complex idea/concept.

**Learning Outcomes**

After completing this project, students will be able to:

1. To explain a concept in a way that reflects the key principles for explanation in Chapter 4.
2. To use explanatory tools that make an unfamiliar concept relatable to a listener.
3. To ask questions that allow you to check the understanding of the listener at the beginning, middle, and/or end of the explanation.
4. To reference the sources of your information through verbal attribution.
5. To organize information for clarity and adaptability
6. To deliver your explanation in a way that builds rapport with your listener and creates credibility for you.

**Time Limit**

4 minutes

**Grace period**

30 seconds before and after the time limit (3:30-4:30) with a penalty of -2% for each block of 30 seconds you are under or over up to a maximum of 10%

For instance, speaking for 4:50 means your project will be assessed a -2% penalty. Whereas speaking for 5:03 would lead to a -4% penalty.

**Grading**

Your Explanation Project contributes 15% to your final course grade.

**Speaking Notes**

Speaking notes are required for this project and will be submitted electronically on Isidore (see link to the Assignment in the Resources section below). Your instructor will discuss with you their particular preferences for the format of your speaking notes for this assignment. A list of cited references formatted according to your instructor's specification is also necessary.

**Project Specifics**

1. Citing Sources: Three (3) credible sources

Dictionaries and encyclopedias, including Wikipedia, should not be used as part of your research for this assignment. Your instructor and our textbook will offer several appropriate research resources for you to explore. If you cite an encyclopedic source, such as Wikipedia, you may be assessed a penalty up to receiving a zero for the project. Please check with your instructor regarding the credibility of academic and/or specialized encyclopedias.

2. Checking Listener Comprehension

During your explanation you should check in on your listener's comprehension. This is typically done by asking questions assessing understanding such as asking the listener to repeat points on a list you have explained or to quickly restate a point in their own words. Types of questions can vary, especially based on when in your presentation you ask them. Chapters 3 and 4 offer information about questions.

3. Explanatory Listener Response

At the end of your explanation, your listener answer a few questions asking them to summarize your thesis and identify your main points.