

Description of the Five Levels (1 through 5) in the Oral Presentation Rubric

1. Reader

- a. Provides only a personal perspective about the topic; unaware of the need to orient and to provide summations
- b. Causes audience to assume that information is simply being read without full understanding
- c. Offers audience only facts and well-established theory as if quoted
- d. Language usage limits understanding or causes misunderstandings because of overly abstract jargon, undefined terms, and incorrect word choices
- e. Non-verbals cause discomfort in audience by giving impression of lack of control of the presentation

2. Information Provider

- a. Provides a basic introduction to orient the audience but inconsistent help to audience in tracking logic of the presentation
- b. Gives audience impression that knowledge is being “transmitted” as intended by the sources used
- c. Gives impression that the knowledge is well-established and unlikely to result in new discoveries
- d. Language usage is consistent with that of sources used but not always with needs of audience
- e. Non-verbals suggest to audience that questioning or challenging would be uncomfortable for the speaker

3. Professional

- a. Keeps audience aware of the thesis by clear initial orientation and occasional reminders
- b. Creates audience impression of solid preparation of the knowledge for the present purpose
- c. Helps the audience to attain a solid understanding of the knowledge and some insights
- d. Language use is consistent and at a level of complexity appropriate to the present audience.
- e. Non-verbals and timing give an impression that the presentation is well-planned

4. Communicator

- a. Maintains full attention of audience through orientation, summations, and examples
- b. Causes audience to consider the speaker as fully in command of the knowledge and able to generalize to similar contexts or problems
- c. Engages the audience in thoughtful consideration that leads them to ask for clarifications
- d. Able to adapt language usage to audience on basis of specific questions and other indications of their needs
- e. Non-verbals and timing show flexibility in adapting message to the audience

5. Orator

- a. Keeps audience always excited about the thesis through orientation, summations, and examples
- b. Causes audience to consider speaker an expert because of great depth and flexibility in use of knowledge and evidence
- c. Challenges the audience to discover new insights and to ask sophisticated questions
- d. Uses simple language to make complex ideas easy to comprehend even for those without background
- e. Extensively uses non-verbals and timing to keep any audience fully involved