

CLASS PRESENTATIONS FAQ

FAQ = Frequently Asked Questions

When: November 17 (Tuesday), November 18 (Wednesday) or November 19 (Thursday)

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

Who: *Everyone enrolled in CH 221*

What topic should I pick? For CH 221, the topic will be **elements**. Pick an element you find interesting and write a report on it.

Since there are over 100 elements, every student must pick a different element. **Reserve** your element with Dr. Russell using the online form at <http://mhchem.org/cp221>

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

If you need to change your class presentation topic after the sixth week of class for any reason you will be penalized 20 points; hence, it's best to reserve an element early and start researching promptly. Also, if you still have not reserved an element by the end of the seventh 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 element. Diagrams, pictures, and other graphics are wonderful, but you will need five full pages of writing for complete credit.

The paper should also include a separate **cover sheet** and a **list of references**. 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; in addition, use 1" margins or less and no more than double spaced type. If unsure, ask the instructor.

An important aspect of this assignment is to ensure scientific relevancy. To this end, **find two peer reviewed scientific articles published within the last three years** that include a reference to your element. **Include copies of the papers (at least the abstracts) with your final Class Presentation paper.** The librarians at MHCC can help you find articles in the MHCC library, but do not wait until the last minute to find your science articles.

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

What is the peer review process? Once a rough draft of your paper has been written, get another student from our class to **peer review** your paper. The student reviewing your paper should proof read the paper and comment on its quality, completeness, etc. and provide additional ideas for improvement. The peer review student may write on your rough draft directly or they may submit a separate sheet with comments; either approach is fine.

You are responsible for finding your own student peer reviewer. **You will need to turn in the peer-reviewed rough draft of your paper by the beginning of your lab period during week 8;** make sure the peer reviewer signs his or her name legibly on the rough draft, for submissions without proof of reviewing will not be accepted. You do not need to include copies of your peer-reviewed science articles in your peer-reviewed paper, only the final paper.

Failure to complete the peer review process by the scheduled deadline results in an automatic 20-point penalty.

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, transparencies, slides, PowerPoint, posters and chalk to enhance their presentation. Make sure you talk to the instructor at least a week ahead of time if you wish to use anything other than PowerPoint or transparencies during your presentation.

PowerPoint 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 "Reviewer Comment Sheet" to the instructor on the day of the presentation will result in a ten point penalty.

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

A sample **Class Presentation Grading Rubric** is available for viewing on the CH 221 website under "Class Information." 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? Once you decide on an element that interests you, complete the online Web form to reserve your element at:

<http://mhchem.org/cp221>

You should receive a response from Dr. Russell within 48 hours; if you do not, email him directly at mike.russell@mhcc.edu. Be sure to include alternate elements in case your first choice has already been claimed.

Reserve your class presentation element by **October 30, 2009 at 9 AM**.

Turn in a peer-reviewed rough draft of your class presentation paper by the beginning of your lab period during the eighth week (**November 10 (Tuesday), November 12 (Thursday) - Wednesday's section, get it to me by 5 PM November 12.**)

Finally, turn in your final Class Presentation paper (with copies of your two peer reviewed scientific papers) and give your class presentation during the ninth week lab period (**November 17, November 18 or November 19.**)

Note that you must both present your work and submit your paper to receive any points on this assignment.

If you have any questions, see this site (<http://mhchem.org/cp221info>) or contact the instructor (mike.russell@mhcc.edu).