

Phys 356 – Class Presentations

Each student will have a chance to present a problem from Griffith's to the class, as part of the lecture. You will be assigned a problem approximately one week before your presentation date. The problem will typically be relevant to the material covered the day of the presentation, so you will need to read ahead in the book to learn how to do it. If you need help, please schedule an appointment with me. (If necessary, I can simply work through the problem with you, but that might impact your grade.)

Goals: By presenting problems to the class, I hope you will improve your presentation skills and also encourage discussion and group learning by the entire class.

Format: When I assign your problem, I'll tell you how much time I think you'll need. If you go much longer, I may have to cut you off. I expect most students will present the problem on the chalk board, but if you want to use a computer, you may.

A good presentation starts with a clear problem statement and a brief summary of the methods used for the solution. Relating the problem to the material we've been talking about is always nice.

In the solution itself, you'll have to adjust the level of detail given to fit the time allotted, but you should make sure to explain all the important points, even if you don't go through all the algebra. As a rule of thumb, your presentation should be complete enough that the other students should be able to go home and work the problem for themselves without any significant difficulty.

Grading: After class, I will email you your grade and any suggestions for improvement that I noted. Each presentation is worth 10 points, 5 based on the correctness of the solution itself, and 5 on the quality of the presentation. Not all the problems will be equally difficult, and I'll take that into account when assigning a score.

Suggestions:

- Plan out your presentation ahead of time, don't just solve the problem. You can assume that I will have covered any material from the text needed for your problem, but you won't have a lot of time so it will be important to think through what you need to say.
- When watching a presentation, be sure to ask questions about things you don't understand. That helps me judge how effective the presentation is, and also part of the point is to generate discussion.