

Ethics Presentation Guidelines

Objective: The objective of the presentation is to provide background and arguments related to a contemporary moral or social issue. The presentation should inform and educate the audience about the issue under discussion. The presentation should last approximately 25-30 minutes.

Structure of Presentation: The presentation should include at least the following three elements: i) Background and History of the issue; ii) Arguments in support of the issue; and, iii) Arguments against the issue. In addition to this basic structure, presenters should have a list of questions ready to ask the audience about the issue.

Background and History: This part of the presentation should provide the relevant background information and history necessary for discussing the issue. For example, if your topic was on gun control, you would want to answer the following questions: What is the history of gun control? What kinds of guns are currently allowed or prohibited? What legislation is relevant to gun control? In addition to providing background of the debate, you want to define terms and explain limits placed on your presentation. For example, if your presentation was on euthanasia, then you will need to define the various forms of euthanasia. Also, you will want to explain which form of euthanasia you have in mind in your presentation and explain why you will limit the presentation to only that form(s) of euthanasia.

Arguments For: This part of the presentation will present at least two arguments for the issue being presented. Presenters should construct sound arguments (valid with all true premises) in the premise–premise–conclusion format used in class. Make the premises as straightforward as possible. Have one premise logically and obviously follow another. Make sure your conclusion does not say more than the premises you have presented. Be able to defend (argue for) the truth of each premise in your argument.

Arguments Against: This part of the presentation will present at least two arguments against the issue being presented. Like arguments for, the arguments against the topic should be logically presented in premise–premise–conclusion format. Make the premises as straightforward as possible. Have one premise logically and obviously follow another. Make sure your conclusion does not say more than the premises you have presented. Be able to defend (argue for) the truth of each premise in your argument.

Questions: To conclude the presentation, prepare a handful of questions to ask your audience. These questions should spark discussion and debate.

Format: Presentations can be created in PowerPoint or on sheets of paper. If you build a PowerPoint presentation, then email Prof. Schmid the presentation before you present in class. If you type your presentation on paper, then come to class with copies for distribution to the class. Also, email Schmid a copy. Presentations are posted to the class web site.

Sources: Cite all sources and include them as the final slide/sheet of your presentation. In researching your presentations, you are allowed no more than two web sites as resources. You must list at least two other non-internet sources.

Grades: Grades are determined on how well you satisfy each of the above elements.