

# Information for BIO 365 presentations

## Guidelines:

An in-class presentation will constitute a significant part of your grade. The presentations will be given on Fridays and should last roughly 20 minutes. Presentations will most likely be done in teams of 2 - 3 people, each sharing responsibility equally. Several presentations will be given per class period. You will be evaluated by me as well as your classmates (see guidelines below). You also need to provide a list of questions (3 or 4) that can be answered by your classmates at the end of your presentation. These will likely end up as test questions.

The presentation should include: 1) an introduction providing background information on your topic (5 minutes), 2) the main body of your presentation (e.g. identification of the problem and strategies for dealing with it/them; 10 minutes) and 3) conclusions and future research directions/needs (5-10 minutes). This is a very generic outline of what should be included. **Each team must discuss their topic, approach and questions with me prior to your presentation.**

## **Evaluation form:**

Overall comments

Introduction (was the background information adequate?)

Content

Use of visual aids (overheads, handouts...)

Delivery (did you rehearse?)

Participation by all group members.

## **Topics to choose from:**

This is a very limited number of suggestions to get you thinking about what you would like to present. The journal Environmental Science and Technology has a cover story once a month on a timely topic in the environmental sciences. These may provide excellent starting points and/or the basis for a presentation. They are written in terms that a non-expert would understand. Also, journals like Scientific American, Nature, Science and others are good sources of information for this type of a presentation.

MTBE contamination of groundwater

PCB contamination of river sediments

Groundwater contamination from dry cleaning solvents (TCE)

Acid rain deposition of Nitrogen and Sulfur

Eutrophication of bodies of water

Acid mine drainage (Iron Mountain and many others)

Environmental estrogens

Amphibian deformities due to environmental conditions

Ozone depletion

UV-induced damage

Global warming due to CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, ....

Waste treatment methods

Selenium poisoning in California (Kesterson Reservoir)

Oil spills (Exxon Valdez)

Contaminant toxicology

Agricultural impacts on the environment