Online presentations for works in progress

Presentations are a great way for students to connect with one another, share their ideas, and help each other learn. While presentations tend to serve as the last piece of a final project, they can be very useful to students in for gathering feedback on work in progress. In an online course, presentations may be one of the only ways that students can get feedback from peers on their ideas.

*Tip: Have students record their presentations save them to the Zoom cloud. Zoom will generate captions for the video.

Schedule a time
As the presenter, you should find a time that works for most students to attend their presentation (or all students in a smaller group) and schedule a Zoom meeting. Anyone who cannot make it can watch a recording.*

Prepare and present
Get ready for the presentation by developing a rough script of what you’d like to say and some visuals. Ask your audience to comment on specific elements of the presentation.

It can help to develop a few clear questions such as, “What do you understand about my topic?” or “What did you think about my case selection?” Record the session using Zoom so that others can watch later and you can review the participant comments.

Incorporate feedback
Watch your Zoom recording, read through any notes you took, and make changes accordingly. You can even follow up with a classmate if you need clarification after the presentation is over. However the presentation went, it’s now over and you’ve hopefully gained some good insights!

Why we love this assignment

Presentations change the way we learn
When you students are asked to create a presentation or explain a concept verbally, they are required to do more than just regurgitate information - they are tasked with putting it in their own words, relating it to their own knowledge base, and articulating its meaning to their peers. Students in online courses in particular should get practice with articulating their ideas verbally as the majority of their work is typically written.

Presenting online reduces public speaking anxiety
While the thought of a presentation in front of a whole in-person class might still give adult learners anxiety, online presentations can relieve some of those high-stress factors and allow students to practice these important skills in a lower-stakes environment.

Provides options for synchronous or asynchronous engagement
Students (and faculty) have the option to attend presentations live or to watch them later if the Zoom meeting is recorded. Encouraging students to attend live will help increase a sense of community in an online classroom and improve the quality of feedback. For those who can’t attend, they still have the option to watch and provide comments or contribute to a broader discussion at a time that’s convenient for them.