CS 680R, supplemental information

Student presentations

Educating – So that we understand the problem and solution space:
• What is the nature of the phenomenon you are presenting? (substantially complete background material)
• Motivate: Why are we discussing this topic in the first place?
• How is the phenomenon modeled? (physics, architecture, mathematics)
• What are the challenges, and why are they challenges?
• What are some of the solutions you have found in the literature?
• How might you consider adding to the existing body of models and solutions?

Compelling – So that we pay attention and engage in active discussion:
• Be colorful: Clear diagrams and explanations
• Be critical: Consider any way in which you may poke holes in existing models and solutions. What is wrong with the way things are done? What is missing that researchers need to address?
• Be controversial: Look for ideas to present that your classmates are likely to disagree with.
• Be philosophical: Question the topic as a whole. For instance, consider whether or not the problem exists in the first place or is a problem only because of our ignorance.

Copying and Plagiarism

For presentations, your objective is to inform and engage. Your “original work” is in the form of how you present during class. To that end, you are encouraged to borrow quotations, formulas, and imagery liberally from other sources. Depending on relevance and quality, you may even borrow large sections of existing presentations you find on the Internet. Be sure, however, to indicate in your work what your sources are.

For projects, your work will be more formal. Your writing style should be similar to the scholarly literature you cite in your project and presentations. Quotations are typically necessary (especially for formulas), with citation, but most of your write-up should be in your own words. Code may be derived from existing open source work, but you should make a substantive contribution of your own.