

Introduction to Ethics: Group Presentation

Toward the beginning of the semester, you will have the opportunity to assign yourself to a presentation group. (If you do not do this in a timely fashion, the instructor will assign you to a group.)

Each group has a presentation article. This article discusses contemporary issues related to how people ought to behave, what people's obligations are, and so on. The first task for your group is to select an interesting ethical issue, about which there is reasonable disagreement, raised by your group's article. The second task for your group is to develop a presentation for the class in which you discuss this issue.

- Your presentation should be more than a book report. View your article as a springboard for discussing an ethical issue. There is no need to outline the article or present every detail.
- Be pessimistic: assume that few members of the audience have read your article. Use examples to make your ethical issue vivid, and pick examples to which your peers can relate.

Your presentation should last no longer than 30 minutes and should include five elements:

- 1- an explanation of an ethical issue the article raises, including illustrations drawn from real life and a discussion of why the issue is relevant or interesting;
- 2- an explanation of why there is reasonable disagreement about the issue, including a discussion of arguments in support of at least two competing stances on the issue (see Chapter 4 for help);
- 3- an application to the issue of *two* of the following ethical theories: Virtue Ethics, Utilitarianism, Deontology; Natural Law Theory
- 4- a sincere attempt to engage the audience in discussion of their ideas or other participation;
- 5- a Group Presentation Evaluation Form (see next page) submitted no more than one class meeting after your presentation.

During the first part of the semester, the instructor will present an issue in a way that models how your group presentation might proceed. *Each group is welcome and invited to consult with me prior to their presentation, for suggestions, tips, etc.* Assessment of each presentation considers:

1: Introduction

- Did the group choose an issue that is interesting from a moral point of view?
- Did the group choose an issue about which there is reasonable disagreement?
- How well did the group convey the issue's importance or relevance?
- How well did the group illustrate the issue, and its importance, with real life examples?

2: Explanation

- How well did the group show that there is reasonable disagreement about the issue?
- Did the group attempt to apply two theories to their chosen issue?
- How well did the group apply each theory?

3: Interaction

- Did the group make a sincere effort to engage the audience in discussion or other participation?
- Was the group able to solicit input and answer questions from the audience?

4: Delivery

- How organized is the presentation? Is it easy to follow? Is there redundant information?
- Do presenters appear to be comfortable with the material? Do they read from notes? Are they easy to hear? Do they help each other when appropriate?

5: Cooperation (see Group Presentation Evaluation Form)

Introduction to Ethics: Group Presentation Grading Rubric

Computation of Instructor Score

Introduction

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Interesting issue? | Yes (+0) | No (-1) | | |
| Reasonable disagreement? | Yes (+0) | No (-3) | | |
| Convey importance/relevance? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
| Illustrations? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |

Explanation

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Show disagreement? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
| Theory application 1? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
| Theory application 2? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
| Two application <i>attempts</i> ? | Yes (+0) | No (-4) | | |

Interaction

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Effort? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|

Delivery

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Organization? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |
| Style? | Poor (+0) | Good (+1) | Very Good (+2) | Excellent (+3) |

Evaluation Form

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|--|--|
| Submitted on/before date? | Yes (+0) | No (-4) | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|--|--|

Computation of Contribution Score

Contribution Score = [(Sum of Effort Scores) / (Number of Group Members submitting Effort Scores)]*
 *rounded to the nearest highest whole number

Computation of Raw Score

Raw Score = Instructor Score + Contribution Score

Computation of Actual Score

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Raw | <0 or 0 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-7 | 8-10 | 11-14 | 15-18 | 19-22 | 23-24 | 25-26 | 27 |
| Actual | 0 | 40 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90 | 95 | 100 |

Introduction to Ethics: Group Presentation Evaluation Form

NAME: _____

Group #: _____

Please submit this form, with a completed Section 1, to the instructor *on or before* the day of your presentation. Failure to do so will result in partial loss of credit for the assignment. If you cannot print this form, submit a handwritten equivalent.

Section 1: To be completed by student

Please list the names of your *other* group members (not *you*) and rank their effort in contributing to the preparation and delivery of your group's presentation on a scale of 1 to 3:

1 = horrible effort 2 = moderate effort 3 = excellent effort

name: _____ effort = .

name: _____ effort = .

name: _____ effort = .

name: _____ effort = .

name: _____ effort = .

Section 2: To be completed by instructor

Contribution Score: _____

Instructor Score: _____

Raw Score: _____

Actual Score: _____

Contribution Score is computed by adding together the effort scores given to you by your fellow group members, dividing this sum by the number of group members submitting a score for you, and rounding to the nearest highest whole number.

Consult the Group Presentation Grading Rubric for information about Instructor Score.

Raw Score = Contribution Score + Instructor Score.

Consult the Group Presentation Grading Rubric for information about Actual Score.