

Guidelines for Term Paper Presentations

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Version 1.1

This document lays out the skeleton for your term paper presentations. All presentations *must follow* this skeleton.

[1] Title Slide

This should include (a) The title of the presentation (b) the authors of the term paper, (c) the course information: CS 455: Introduction to Distributed Systems, and (d) affiliation which would be Computer Science Department, Colorado State University.

[2] Why is this problem important?

Describe where this research is being used, how this plays a role in our daily lives, etc.

[3] Problem characterization

This is a technical description of the problem. Your audience is your peers so express it in a way that they can appreciate.

[4] Trade-off space for solutions in this area

Often the problem space is big enough that optimal solutions might be computationally intractable. In some cases, the memory requirements may be too high. Distributed solutions may entail far too many message exchanges. Add in consumer demands such as fast response times and things get even trickier.

To cope with such scenarios, solutions often go for the “good enough” approach. The trade-off space describes which element of the solution space was traded off for achieving a certain objective. In cloud settings for example, solutions often trade-off consistency for availability; if there are failures in the system, you will still be able to access the service but consistency might be off – it is always a good idea to check if the quantities are correct in your online shopping cart before you complete the checkout.

[5] Dominant approaches to the problem [2 slides]

This is where you quickly summarize your survey while giving a feel for the key features in each approach that you surveyed.

[6] Insights Gleaned

These are the key ideas that underpin the best approaches that you surveyed. These are things that you *did not* know before you started the survey. The best solutions are the ones that you may have not thought of, but seem incredibly obvious once you have seen them.

[7] What the problem space in the future would look like

This is a thought experiment. You will be looking ahead and visualizing a future where there could be proliferation of certain types of devices, new types of services, changes in usage patterns, etc. This slide will describe how you expect the problem space to evolve in the future.

[8] Trade-off space and solutions in the future

This where you will be proposing “rough” solutions based on the problem space in the future. You will be applying what you have learned so far.

Points distribution

The presentation will account for 5 points towards your cumulative course grade. The breakdown of the points is listed below.

1 point	If you have attended both the presentation sessions. A sign-in sheet will be passed around at during the presentations.
2 points	Technical depth in the presentation.
2 points	Quality of presentation. All group members should present. It is important that you rehearse your presentation and not simply read from the slides.

Submission of Presentation Slides

You should submit your presentation slides via the checkin system. The checkin folder set aside for this submission is **TP-PRES**. The deadline for submission is Monday, May 6th @ 12:00 pm. There will be one submission per group. If you are in Group X, the naming convention would be the following: GroupX_Presentation.pptx or ppt