

## Guidelines for PTYS 442/542 Class Project Presentation and Writeup

When researching the project, an excellent tool for searching through abstracts and papers is NASA's [ADS](#) service:

[https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/search/filter\\_databasefq\\_database=OR&filter\\_databasefq\\_database=database%3A%22astronomy%22&fq=%7B!type%3Daqp%20v%3D%24fq\\_database%7D&fq\\_database=\(database%3A%22astronomy%22\)&p\\_ =0&q=%3A\\*&sort=date%20desc%2C%20bibcode%20desc](https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/search/filter_databasefq_database=OR&filter_databasefq_database=database%3A%22astronomy%22&fq=%7B!type%3Daqp%20v%3D%24fq_database%7D&fq_database=(database%3A%22astronomy%22)&p_ =0&q=%3A*&sort=date%20desc%2C%20bibcode%20desc)

You can search by author, title words or abstract words etc... Below the search form are some check boxes to include/exclude results from non-reviewed sources (like conference abstracts, PhD thesis etc) and reviewed sources (like journal papers). Most of these papers (at least the recent ones) are linked in PDF form from this site.

Here are a few guidelines:

### Presentation

- Aim for 10-12 minutes in length
- Expect 2-3 minutes of questions
- Don't try to show more than 1 slide a minute
- Use prepublished figures, include a note to say what paper it came from
- Hand-drawn cartoons are worth a thousand words
- Try and find time to practice your talk (even in an empty room) - speaking it out loud is the best way to figure out what parts are unclear

Structure the talk much like your report:

- Statement of the problem
- Why it's significant
- What people think to date
- Your take on these different opinions
- Finish with some sort of recap of the problem

### Written Report

- Aim for whatever length you need to cover what you've done
- Typically this will be no more than 5 single-spaced pages including references and figures
- Include an abstract at the front, limit it to 200-250 words and make it the last thing you write
- Pre-published figures are fine, but need to be referenced.
- Even when using a prepublished figure write your own figure captions - the figure is there to support what you're saying
- Summarize other people's findings - Don't repeat their whole argument (except the relevant parts)

- Don't copy and paste text from papers into these reports - they need to be in your own words
- Put all the references in their own section at the end and in some consistent format - don't give the full reference in the text just the name and year
- Be sure to come to some sort of conclusion and relate the implications of that back to the larger picture i.e. the reason this question was important in the first place