Advice and Expectations for Projects and Presentations

Choosing a Topic:
Choose something that interests all members of the group and that can be done within the short timeframe you have available. You can investigate a topic in depth, or you can conduct an experiment or survey. If you are planning to investigate a topic (and not do an experiment) make sure there are enough facets to it that everyone on the team can take responsibility for researching a substantial aspect. Part of what will make your presentation a success is having a coordinated team in which the individuals' contributions are integrated into a cohesive whole.

Structuring your Work
Have a meeting as soon as possible to choose a topic and establish a work plan. Working backwards from the time you know you need to be finished, create a realistic timeline. Specify what each member of the team is expected to do each week. Try to meet as a group at least once a week and get a progress report from each team member.

Oral Presentation
Each group will have up to 30 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions. If you conducted a study, you are expected to communicate the rationale behind it, your methods, results and conclusions. If you did an in-depth analysis of a complex topic you will need to present an introduction, detailed information, and an analysis. *Each group member must participate in the presentation.* If your project included an experiment, each member can discuss a different part of it. If you investigated a topic in depth, each person should discuss something about it. In both cases the presentation should be coordinated – it should not seem like separate presentations.

Presentation of an Experiment or Survey
If you did an experiment or survey, make sure you include information about each of the following:
- Recruitment of participants
- Equipment and methods
- Security measures
- Hypotheses
- Data analysis, including a power analysis
- Conclusions and discussion, including how your results fit with other studies of the same type

Presentation of an In-depth Investigation of a Topic
If you investigated a topic, you should not simply rehash information you have read. Your presentation should include a critical analysis of the topic and how it fits with material from the course. Ideally, your team will spend substantial time discussing and analyzing various aspects of the topic. Additionally, your presentation should include:
- A literature review, if appropriate
- An overview of the topic and the resources you used to investigate it
- Detailed information about the topic
- Analysis and evaluation of what you found, including opinions of team members

Visual Materials
You may use a PowerPoint slide show, overhead transparencies, the white board, the video player or any combination of these.

Additional Requirements
Please turn in a report of at least one page at the time of your presentation. The report should include a summary of your project, including the contributions made by individual members.