MAKING A BIG CIRCLE

Beth Newborg (bateman@pitt.edu), Dan Budny (budny@pitt.edu), Keely Bowers, Amanda Brant, John Calvasina, Janine Carlock, Libby Ferda, Emelyn Fuhrman, Diane Kerr, Nancy Koerbel, Josh Lapekas, Tim Maddocks, Julienne McAdoo, Dan Mcmillan, Rachel McTernan, Anjali Sachdeva, Josh Zelesnick, Janet Zellmann

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

For this assignment you will make two power point files and a 5 minute presentation that will be given in your small seminar section when you return from Thanksgiving break. The first PowerPoint file is a presentation that will include a traditional PowerPoint file with multiple slides. The second is a poster presentation. Each peer advisor section has a different meeting time during the week so they are doing it a little different, so contact your peer advisor for details. They will discuss the detail with you in the seminar. Each traditional presentation should be approximately 5 minutes long, with a minimum of 8 - 12 slides. Use tables and graphs to display numerical data instead of text. Some of the slides should have images. Instead of long paragraphs of text, summarize the information into lists.

CONTENT

The purpose of this presentation is to summarize the writing assignments for this semester. The first assignment was basically a bio. The purpose of the paper was to get you to think about who you are, what are your interest areas and what are your strengths. The next three papers had you do a detailed study of the present area of engineering you are interested in, you also found a grand challenge/trend in engineering to write about and look into the future and try and predict where your field of engineering is headed. The study included a look at the connection between society and engineering and how you see them related and the ethical issues involved with the decisions an engineer must make.

The purpose of this presentation is to look at the big picture and complete the circle. You know what your strengths are, you can see the present and future of the various fields of engineering, now tell me how it fits together for you. How do you see the trends taking you into an area that fits your interest area. Tell me why you think the present working conditions in engineering fit into your goals and how your future plans are in line with what the trends are showing. Finally explain how you, society and work will all come together.

NO WRONG ANSWER

There is no right and wrong presentation. We are not looking for a certain answer. This presentation is not for us but for you. This is your chance to convince yourself that you are in the right major, or show us why you decided to change majors.

COMMUNICATION

This year we have taken you through a number of different forms of communication. We have shown you the different ways to research a topic and you have studied data presented in journals, engineering society web sites, commercial web sites, non-journal publications, etc. This has exposed you to the way engineers communicate. In return you have written papers and submitted them in paper form. Then we took that information and you posted it on your web site, and you are making your own company web site. All of this is teaching you how data and information is distributed in the engineering field. Well there are a few methods we still need to cover. Another popular form of communication is with PowerPoint presentations. You saw a number of professional presentations this year at the conference or in your seminar courses. Now it is time you make your own. Another form of communication is posters, for example the posters displayed in and around the classrooms. They are a form of art that provides information along with providing a pleasing appearance. In this assignment you will produce these additional forms of communication.

THANKSGIVING PRACTICE

Bring copies of all your writing assignments home and let your family read them, while they are doing that, you produce a short PowerPoint presentation and when you are done give that presentation to your family. Hopefully when you complete the presentation both you and your family should have a better view of where you are headed over the next 4 years. This is not a dumb idea, you are just afraid to explain to people that you either don’t know what to do, or you are afraid they will not respect your decision. Well if they cared enough to raise you and fix your boo boos, they care enough to listen to your presentation. So stop thinking the world is about you and start thanking the jesters in your life.
DO I HAVE TO HAVE AN ANSWER?

No. It is very possible that all the writing has caused you to have more questions than answers. This is a good thing. Better to ask what you want to be now than wait until you are 45 years old. We are not done with having you explore engineering we will continue this process next semester, so it is OK to have questions. If you are in this position, then just present your questions and why you are confused. Explain your fears of going into one field instead of another.

The important thing is to be honest in your presentation. You will find that many students are in the same boat as you, and as you listen to their presentations it is very possible that you will learn something about a field of engineering from their presentation that you did not know. Maybe you will learn something that will help you make your choice or maybe something you say will help them.

SUMMARY

In summary, in 5 minutes I want you to tell me who you are, why you think engineering is a good/bad fit for you right now, where you see the profession going and how you see yourself connected to society through engineering. You have seen a number of professional presentations, so try and make yours to be the same quality.

POSTER

After you complete your traditional 8 – 12 slide presentation, your task is to summarize everything into one poster slide. The power point poster slide should be designed with a size of 24 inches by 36 inches. This is done under the “Design” tab/Page Setup. This will be explained in class. Basically, there are two types of professional presentations. One involves standing in front of a room and talking through a number of slides. This is what the first part of this project deals with. The second type of presentation, is a poster. A poster is typically 24 inches by 36 inches. If you walk around the building you will see student senior design posters mounted on the walls on almost every floor. We also have them in Benedum 229 and GSCC138. These are posters made by last year’s freshman. So use them as a guide. The purpose of these presentations is for the poster to act like a piece of art work that people read by themselves. Typically the author does not discuss this type of presentation. The content of the poster stands on its own. Walk around the building and review the various posters so you get an idea of what is required.

Your job is to produce such a poster that summarizes your semester writing assignment. You will print out the poster on an 8.5 by 11 inch piece of paper, then your Peer Advisor will select the best poster in the group. Some of these posters will then be expanded to 24 by 36 inches and will be mounted on the walls to represent the Freshman Design Projects.