

MVHS Intro to Engineering: Group Research Project

What is the assignment?

Travel to <http://greaachievements.org/>. This list details the top 20 greatest Engineering achievements in the 20th century. You will get with a partner to prepare a PowerPoint presentation outlining the top 5 achievements your group deems the most important to our civilization and why were are, where we are today.

Why am I giving a group presentation?

A large portion of most engineers careers are devoted to working as a team in various situations. This particular situation will pair you with person/persons you may not be familiar with. You must be cordial, and willing to step out of your comfort zone a bit to accomplish this task.

What exactly are the guidelines for this presentation?

All presentations must be 4-5 minutes in length and should persuade the audience of the importance of your collective topic. That said, you have a lot of latitude in terms of the form of your presentation. Here are some possibilities.

- You could have a presentation in which each person takes a turn delivering a minute or two about the topic
- You could choose a creative format, such as a news broadcast, a conference, etc.
- You could have each person participate in the oral delivery of the presentation, or you could deploy some people "behind the scenes" instead
- You can incorporate different media into your presentation: film clips, audio, etc

Remember, no matter what the form of your presentation, it needs to be unified overall as a single argument -- no matter how many different voices are speaking during it. The key is that your group decides on, design, and deliver a presentation that most effectively accomplishes its goals. Group participation and management is key, you will be evaluating each other as part of your grade

What steps are involved?

1. **Research. Research. Research** You will have two class periods to read ALL the 20 achievements and decide as a group which ones are the top 5. Remember – you must have a reason and explanation for each one and why you ranked it as so. Feel free to gather external data (you have the entire internet at your disposal, don't just use the site as your only source)
2. **Practice.** You will be asked to meet outside of class time to practice your presentation. You will also be given time in class. I would suggest using a sharing program like Google Docs to create and share the PowerPoint (if you need help, please see me)
3. **Create the PowerPoint.** This presentation is composed of two sections: **in the first section**, you should state your findings and details of each of the achievements. **In the second section** of your presentation, you should discuss your group's own process of developing your choices of achievements including:
 - The rationale for your group's choice
 - The issues you may have encountered in the decision making process
 - Concluding thoughts
4. **Team Evaluation. (individually turned in on one TYPED sheet of paper)**
 - How tasks were distributed across the group, and how successful that distribution was
 - A consideration on the process of creating a collaborative presentation vs. one that is individually authored
 - General comments on the actual presentation itself (how it went) and the assignment in general
 - A grade from 1-5 (five being the best and most involved)

The PowerPoint presentations should be between 10 and 15 slides in length.