

21W.022     **ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON WRITING ISSUES**  
SPRING 2014

As a CI-HW subject, 21W.022.03 has an oral presentation component. Our focus in these short oral presentations (15 min.) will be on strategies for effective autobiographical writing; students will do presentations in pairs. Our goal in these presentations is to improve your skills in developing, organizing and presenting material orally to audiences.

Presentation pairs are encouraged to select topics particularly relevant for them as writers. These topics can be general issues, such as dealing with “writer’s block” or procrastination tendencies. Presentations can also focus on specific issues such as writing dialogue, crafting intros and conclusions, using metaphors, editing choppy and run-on sentences, avoiding clichés or correcting common grammatical and usage errors (e.g., using commas and semicolons effectively, avoiding homophone errors, etc.).

**Proposal: Due Fri. 2/28:** Students will first submit a short (1 pg.) proposal over email to Andrea Walsh and Louise Harrison Lepera listing **TWO** possible topics and your reasons for choosing them, your presentation partner (if you have one) and **TWO** possible presentation dates. The scheduled dates for presentations fall in April: **Tues. 4/1 (one pres.), Tues. 4/8 (four pres.), Tues. 4/15 (two pres.) and Tues. 4/29 (two pres.)** If you do not have a presentation partner, we will pair you with another student. Louise Harrison Lepera will meet with student pairs as they plan their presentations.

**Process:**

Students are asked to email a presentation plan to me and Louise Harrison Lepera for feedback **a week before** the presentation, and to turn in any presentation slides (e.g., Powerpoint or Prezi) as well as a self-evaluation of the quality of pre-presentation preparation, delivery and handouts/materials distributed to the class; you are not required to produce presentation slides, although some students find them helpful. Self-evaluations are due over email **a week after** the presentation.

Each student pair will present one or two writing issues to the class; your joint presentation should be about 15 minutes long. For each presentation, the student(s) presenting will write, photocopy and distribute a well-designed sheet of information on the particular topic. The sheet should include several examples that demonstrate the problem and strategies for resolving or correcting it. Use creativity and humor in your presentations. Give your classmates time to correct the problem or discuss the issue at the end of your talk.

If possible, when creating handouts, try to pick examples from your own writing or create sentences that relate to MIT life. In addition to *Easy Writer*, I have several writing guides in my office that are available for borrowing. Also check the library’s electronic resources, our class site and the Writing Center website for additional weblinks and resources. **Be sure to author your own information sheets and exercises; if you are quoting from sources, include citation information. If you are using A-V projection, check that your computer connections and A-V are working the day before your talk. If you are using a MAC, you will need a special connector.**

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21W.022.03 Writing and Experience: Reading and Writing Autobiography  
Spring 2014

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