

# Research Project: Presentation

PHIL 29S

*due the week of August 14*

Philosophy isn't all about making complicated arguments and subtle conceptual distinctions; it's also about learning how to communicate your ideas effectively to others. And so, in addition to writing a final research paper for this class, you are to give a presentation to your peers summarizing your research project's main ideas. The purpose of this presentation is: (a) to give you some practice at communicating philosophical ideas in a digestible and engaging manner; (b) to allow you to share your ideas with others, and to hear about theirs; and (c) to give you the opportunity to explore some more creative outlets for the expression of philosophical ideas.

## *Guidelines*

The topic of your presentation should be the same as that of your research project: a specific emerging technology, along with a specific philosophical question about that technology.

The kind of presentation you give is up to you. Most straightforwardly, it can be a slideshow presentation (in the manner of a TED Talk); alternatively, it could be a video, a short story, an animation, a skit, a song, a podcast, a comic strip, a website, a game, an app – almost anything really. Be creative!

Basically, your presentation must do three things: (1) introduce / explain the technology you're researching; (2) present / motivate the philosophical question you're asking about that technology; (3) present / explain the answer you're defending to that question. (Your presentation may go into other things, too, but these are the only essential ones.) Depending on the kind of presentation you

give, the way in which you accomplish these tasks may be more or less explicit, and more or less direct. Again, you're encouraged to be creative!

Your presentation should be between 3 and 5 minutes in length – though this guideline will vary depending on the kind of presentation you're doing. If you have any questions about the expectations for the kind of presentation you've chosen, please just ask!

Your presentation may be a group presentation, with up to 3 of your classmates, if all members of your group are working on the same general technology and/or the same philosophical issue for their research project. All members of your group are expected to contribute to the presentation equally, and all members' research project ideas must be represented (though the way in which you accomplish this can vary depending on the kind of presentation you're doing).

### *Turning it in*

You will give your presentation, to me and a group of your peers, at some point during the week of August 14. Some of you will present during our normal class times that week, but some of you will have to present outside of our normal class times, due to the large number of students in our class. The exact date and time of your presentation will be determined in consultation with you and your group members, and told to you at least a week in advance.

If your presentation includes the use of any digital files – slides, videos, audio, etc. – please email those to me before your assigned presentation time, at [williec@stanford.edu](mailto:williec@stanford.edu). This will allow me to ensure that there are no (or at least fewer) technical hiccups during our presentation sessions.

### *Grading*

Your presentation will be graded on how clearly and effectively it communicates your research project's main ideas, how engaging it is as a presentation, and its overall creativity. The grading rubric I will be using will be made available on the course website.