Assignment 3 - Presentation / Elevator Pitch

CMPS/CMPE 200 - Fall 2014

Due: November 18 by 4pm

1 Deliverables

1.1 One-Slide Presentation

For this assignment you will create a concise one-slide presentation (exported in PDF format).

1.2 One-Minute Elevator Pitch

You will then give a one-minute talk using your one-slide presentation in front of the class. This is an elevator pitch – a very concise summary of who you are, what you are doing, and what you want to do. There may be a Q&A immediately following the presentation, time permitting.

2 Details

We are all unique individuals with exciting experiences, ideas, and goals. The objective of this assignment is to construct a very concise and potent discussion about yourself, your idea, and your future. If you maintain this pitch wherever you go, you have a powerful tool that may create valuable opportunities in your career.

Imagine you get into an elevator, and as the doors are closing, an incredibly important person jumps in. This could be a world-renowned researcher in your field, the CEO of your company, a Nobel Laureate, anyone. You now have a minimal time between floors to talk with a person that could change your life. Whether you want to bounce an idea off them, seek a promotion, or pick their brain, having your elevator pitch ready will prepare you for a critical moment like this.

3 Suggestions

You may be as creative as you want! Your can pitch your research topic, start-up idea, product, or anything else that uniquely inspires you.

You won’t be able to fit all the information you want on one slide while keeping it readable. It may take significant effort to compact your topic into a powerful, concise, and readable single slide.

Your oral elevator pitch will probably contain more information than your slide. The slide will show your key points, but you will expand on them. This means you should rehearse your spoken pitch in order to remember your points and consistently keep it under one minute.

Some quick suggestions for content in your pitch:

• Briefly introduce yourself, your interests, and your notable qualifications.
• Give a one sentence summary[1] of your elevator pitch (research topic, start-up idea, product, etc.).
• Educate the class on your particular pitch, including anything you have accomplished.
• Explain how you want to take this further.

Also, take advantage of these presentations to discover and network with other students that may have mutually beneficial backgrounds, research, and ideas.

[1]“It is best if you can capture your thesis in a single sentence. If you can do this, make it sentence #1 of your dissertation, and repeat this sentence, word for word, wherever you need to drive home the point of your dissertation. This is a tremendous aid in focusing your work. A side benefit is that it provides an unassailable defense to an entire class of attacks on your work.” [http://www.cs.ucla.edu/~palsberg/shivers.html]
4 Submission

Submit your one-slide presentation in PDF format on eCommons [http://its.ucsc.edu/ecommons/].

One-minute elevator pitches will be given during the final three lectures of the quarter (11/24, 12/2, and 12/9). You will present in the order of everyone’s eCommons submission time.