

## MESM: Major Paper Presentation Rubric

Developed by the University of Rhode Island,  
Master of Environmental Science and  
Management Program -- [http://web.uri.edu/  
assessment/uri/rubrics/](http://web.uri.edu/assessment/uri/rubrics/)

Speaker \_\_\_\_\_

Criterion	Well Done	Suggestions for Improvement	Poor
<b>Introduction: Big Picture</b>	Issue presented clearly & succinctly; no doubt as to why it is important; big-picture context clear; appropriate reference to earlier work.		The explanation of why this problem matters is very unclear; big-picture context not apparent; not clear why this is important
<b>Introduction: Specific Problem</b>	A particular aspect, application or need related to the issue is presented clearly and succinctly. This will be the bridge between the big picture and the objective.		Poor introduction to the problem. Not clear about audience. Not clear why the problem is worth addressing.
<b>Objective of Major Paper</b>	Succinct description of project objective & how it relates to the big-picture context.		Objective not defined clearly; hard to tell what, specifically, the researchers intended.
<b>Client, Audience</b>	Clear description of the audience of your major paper and why this is important to them.		Not clear who is the audience for the major paper
<b>Methods I: What Will You Do?</b>	Succinct – what will you be doing? White paper/literature review; data analyses; surveys; geospatial analyses; model application; other? Appropriate design & analysis; described clearly.		Methods dominate presentation or are confusing. Methods not logically or completely presented.
<b>Methods II: Resources</b>	What resources will you need for your methods and how you obtain those resources? Include any cooperators/partners/collaborator in this section.		Not clear on what it will take to make project happen. No partnerships developed or proposed.
<b>Methods III: Time Line</b>	Break your major paper into a series of 3-5 activities (literature review and write up will be two common activities for everyone)		Sequence of activities not clearly articulated.
<b>Expected (or Realized) Outcomes: What Will be the Result of Your Study?</b>	This should be a clear reflection (or presentation) of your results		Tangible outcomes of project not stated or confusing.

<b>Balance - Visual</b>	Slides balance figures, text, white space; figures dominate, text minimal; clean, uncluttered background.		Slides dominated by small, cluttered text or pictures; insufficient text supporting images; distracting background.
<b>Balance - Content</b>	Presentation focuses on results & conclusions, with a reasonable introduction to problem context & succinct methods.		Too much time & space devoted to introducing the problem & describing methods; little time left for results & conclusions.
<b>Text</b>	Fonts readable throughout room (slides). Headings large, obvious, appropriate.		Text too small, lengthy blocks of text, no indentation, too much bold or italic.
<b>Figures</b>	Appropriate for point being made; neat, uncluttered, visible (large enough).		Off-point; hard to see (too small).
<b>Presentation</b>	Slide transitions simple & direct. No irrelevant animation effects & sounds (slides). Walks audience / viewer through data & results. Uses slides as a guide, does not read presentation from them. Kept to time limit		Lots of confusing visual transitions (animations, etc for slides). Does not guide audience / viewers through data & results. Reads presentation from slides. Talk is too long or too short.
<b>Presence</b>	Excited, enthusiastic, animated; eye contact with audience; spoke loudly & clearly enough to be understood; spoke at a reasonable pace; appropriate attire (e.g., business casual); controlled use of laser pointer.		Dull, lifeless delivery; spoke in monotone; spoke too softly or too quickly & without clear enunciation; little eye contact with audience, talked to screen or poster board; read from slides, poster, or paper; over-rehearsed.
<b>Audience Questions</b>	Answers were direct, clear, on-target		Answers incorrect, evasive, defensive, incoherent. No time left for questions.

**Additional comments here:**