

# GIFTS – Getting Students to Make Fact-Based Presentations in a First Year Engineering Course

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## PURPOSE

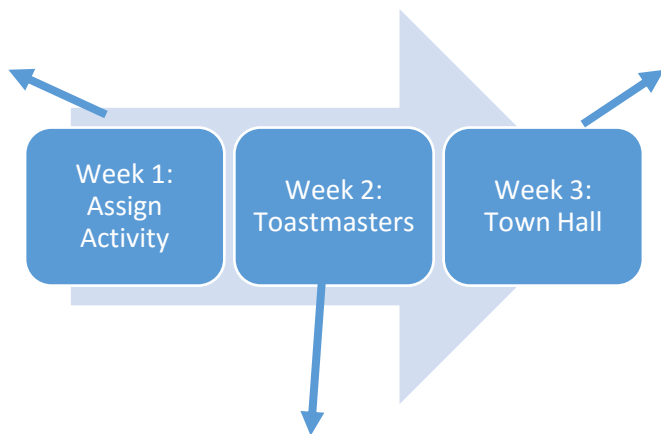
Employer feedback on engineering graduates points out their lack of communication skills and lack of experience in presenting fact-based information. Making effective presentations is imperative for students to be able to demonstrate their ideas and designs efficiently. An introductory first-year engineering course is an opportunity for instructors to encourage students to research facts on various topics and present them in a formal setting to the class.

4 Students Per Team

Student teams are assigned randomly a "for" or "against" side for each topic.

Some Examples of Current Engineering Topics

- Apple Vs. Samsung
- Self Driving Vehicles
- Are Robots Taking Over Our Jobs?
- Renewable Energy
- Use of Drones
- Cloud Storage
- Net Neutrality
- Bathroom Bill
- Corporate Consolidation



**2 + 2 + 2 Format (6 min per topic)**

2 Min - First Team Presents in favor of the topic

2 Min - Second Team Presents against the topic

2 Min – Rebuttals/Discussion

Presented by the student chapter of Toastmasters Club on campus. Toastmasters is an organization that operates clubs worldwide to help members improve their communication, public speaking and leadership skills.

**Emphasis is on presenting fact-based information regardless of their individual feelings about the topic.**

## Town hall Meeting Evaluation Sheet

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Topic: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ (out of 100)

### PRESENCE AND STYLE \_\_\_\_\_ (out of 20)

- A. Displays confidence
- B. Enthusiasm and vigor
- C. Effective use of gestures
- D. Professional appearance

### ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ (out of 20)

- A. Background Provided
- B. Flow and transition between topics
- C. Effective use of time
- D. Summary Provided

### ANALYSIS OF ISSUES \_\_\_\_\_ (out of 40)

- A. Background Research Based on Facts

### DISCUSSION/REBUTTAL PERFORMANCE \_\_\_\_\_ (out of 20)

- A. Responsiveness and receptiveness to questions
- B. Succinct answers with adequate explanation

Good Example: DRIVERLESS CARS	
Yes	No
<p>"Automated vehicles could eliminate 90% of the deaths and injuries caused by human driver error."</p> <p>Wall Street Journal</p>	<p>"Driverless cars are typically hit from behind by inattentive or aggressive humans unaccustomed to self-driving motorists being such sticklers for the road rules."</p> <p>The Guardian, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>

