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.

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**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

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**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

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**Week 1: Assign Activity**
**Week 2: Toastmasters**
**Week 3: Town Hall**

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

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**Town Hall Meeting Evaluation Sheet**

**Team Members:** ____________________________________________

**Name:** ___________________

**Grade:** ___________________

**Topic:** ____________________________________________

**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. Responds to questions with adequate explanations

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**Good Example: DRIVERLESS CARS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Automated vehicles could eliminate 90% of the deaths and injuries caused by human driver error.”</td>
<td>“Driverless cars are typically hit from behind by inattentive or aggressive humans unaccustomed to self-driving motorists being such sticklers for the road rules.”</td>
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