Grade Your Presentations

by Stuart Klugman

Weight	Description	Scoring Key
4	Slides and/or	1 – A copy of a paper, dense
	overheads	2 – Edited, but hard to read
		3 – Contains key information
		4 – Proper information plus good design
		5 – Wow!
2	Eye contact	1 – Faces screen or computer and never looks up
	and body	2 – Makes an attempt; but uncomfortable, distracting mannerisms
	language	3 – Aware of audience, but not interacting
		4 – Looks around and tries to catch reactions, few distractions
		5 – Holds a conversation with audience
1	Introduction	1 – None – just starts talking
		2 – Doesn't give a road map
		3 – Brief set-up
		4 – States problem and lays out agenda
		5 – Gives a reason to stay tuned
2	Body	1 – Disorganized, no flow
		2 – Can follow with some effort
		3 – Leads logically through points
		4 – Smooth path
		5 – Interest builds throughout
2	Conclusion	1 – Ends abruptly
		2 – Planned an ending, but not effective
		3 – Wrapped up, but no final word
		4 – Let you know what's next and where to get more info
		5 – You leave happy
3	Time	1 – Had no clue, probably not practiced
	management	2 – Had an idea, but got off track
		3 – Had to modify pace to reach end
		4 – Planned in advance
		5 - No evidence that time was an issue
2	Understanding	1 – Assumed audience knows it all
	audience	2 – Lost most of audience in early going
		3 – Aware of non-experts, but not satisfying
		4 – Recognized the variety of backgrounds
		5 – Communicated to that variety

Stuart Klugman, FSA, is the Principal Financial Group professor of actuarial science in the College of Business and Public Administration at Drake University in Des Moines, IA. He can be reached at Stuart.Klugman@drake.edu.