

CS19929 Creating Computer Games for Learning

Project Presentation - Flash Talk

Flash talks have become popular in the past several years as a short way to introduce a larger project. They are not unrelated to “elevator talks” in the past. An elevator talk (or elevator pitch) is a summary of your project that you can give during a single ride of an elevator when you happen to be trapped with a more senior colleague that you want to know about your work. An elevator talk/pitch is limited to 1-2 minutes.

The challenge in an elevator talk/pitch or flash talk is to distill what you are doing to the most important, interesting features. Flash talks have the added benefit of visuals to go with the pitch. A flash talk is typically limited to 3-4 minutes. The slides are provided to the moderator beforehand to be pre-loaded in sequence. Slides advance automatically every minute, enforcing the time constraint.

For this class, each group needs to make a flash talk that will take only 5 minutes to deliver. Look at your game and identify the most crucial, interesting parts of the project that will explain them well, may distinguish them from what others are doing, and illustrate that you are integrating concepts from the class (and know how to use the vocabulary taught in the class). You may write down what you are going to say with each slide and have note cards with you when you deliver your flash talk.

You will be graded on the following aspects of your talk:

- Visuals - appropriate pictures, not just words
- Vocal delivery - Project your voice, speak clearly, and don't fidget
- Clarity - Did we leave feeling like we understood how your game will work?
- Vocabulary - Did you explain your game using the vocabulary of the course (e.g., scaffolding, learning trajectory, flow, dramatic elements, etc.)?
- Design - To what degree does your design reflect the design principles of this course? You can refer to the learning/engagement spectrum we talk about in Week 1 to make sure your design falls under the acceptable range for an educational game.

You will use the projector to share your screen to do the talk, so you may use any format (e.g., pdf, pptx, Google Slides) you wish.