EXAMPLE OUTLINE OF RESEARCH PROJECT ORAL/POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- REMEMBER YOU ONLY HAVE APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES FOR THE ORAL.
- A COUPLE OF THOSE MINUTES SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS
- YOU WILL BE GIVEN SIGNALS WHEN YOU HAVE 5, 2 AND 1 MINUTES LEFT
- PRACTICE!

A. EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

✓ Present the background of your topic
✓ What is the problem you are investigating
✓ Where is the study area / geographic extent
✓ What is the question(s) you are asking and trying to solve / analyze using GIS
   i. Be very specific
✓ Why is this subject important? Who is interested?
   i. This could be the public at large, another professor, an organization, or even yourself
✓ Who will your research potentially benefit/impact
✓ How does GIS play a role or help with this research
✓ What is the advantage(s) of using GIS as opposed to other methods?
✓ Make sure to introduce/explain any key terms/concepts/acronyms you will use that your audience is unlikely to be familiar with. The class is comprised of students studying a variety of disciplines.

B. EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A REVIEW OF YOUR METHODS

✓ How did you study the problem / question
✓ What were the sources of your data
   i. What was the format of the data
   ii. What did you have to go through to get it into GIS ready format
✓ What parts of ArcGIS did you use (spatial analyst, 3D analyst, etc.)
✓ This is not a step by step explanation of methods, just general concepts
✓ Were there any commands / procedures that you discovered on your own (e.g. ones that were not covered during lab)
✓ If you created new data, how? GPS, heads up digitizing, scanning, georeferencing…
✓ Did you use any software other than ArcGIS and if so what was it and why was it important (SAS, Stata, SketchUp, Google Earth)
✓ What analytical methods did you employ, such as:
   i. Overlays (clips, unions, intersects)
   ii. Geocoding
   iii. Interpolation
   iv. Model builder
Did you establish any criteria/standards/assumptions
   i. Briefly state what they are

C. EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO INCLUDE IN PRESENTING YOUR RESULTS
   ✓ What are your findings – preliminary or otherwise
   ✓ What is the answer to your question(s) or what is your expectation based on your work so far
   ✓ What is the outcome of your analysis (MAPS!)
      i. Of course include tables/charts/photos if they help illustrate your results
   ✓ Were you able to (or do you have confidence you will be able to) answer your question(s)
   ✓ Were there major problems/stumbling blocks encountered during the analysis and if so, what were they?
      i. Computer trouble
      ii. Software trouble
      iii. Software didn’t have a tool

D. EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO INCLUDE IN THE DISCUSSION
   ✓ What do your results mean?
   ✓ Most important findings
   ✓ What conclusions can you draw
   ✓ How do your results compare to expectations
   ✓ What are plausible explanations for what you found
   ✓ What additional research might be done to make your results more meaningful
   ✓ What practical applications might your results have?
   ✓ Can you extend your findings to other situations?
   ✓ Could your analysis be used by other people with similar questions and if so, what might they have to change

E. EXAMPLES OF HOW TO WRAP UP YOUR PRESENTATION
   ✓ Summary remarks
   ✓ Encapsulate your findings
   ✓ What would you do next, or are you going to do next, if you are continuing with this project or had time to kill
   ✓ Succinctly restate your question(s) and the answer(s)
   ✓ Don’t say “OK, I GUESS THAT’S IT”

REMEMBER YOU WILL ONLY HAVE 10 MINUTES
EVALUATION OF PROJECT

Mid-semester requirements 10% of grade

Progress Report 1
Progress Report 2

Oral Presentation 10% of grade

Is it well organized?
Is the information communicated clearly?
Is it evident that the presenter is knowledgeable about his/her topic?
Are the GIS methods used reasonable?
Are the graphics (maps/graphs/tables) legible to the audience?
Were the results (final or tentative) presented?
Was the time limitation honored?
Was it evident that the presenter had done due diligence to practice the talk?
Is there a strong conclusion?

Poster 10% of grade

Clarity / Legibility of text / maps / tables
Establishment of research question(s)
Is text supportive of the visuals
Do visuals (maps/graphs/tables) convey the answer(s)
Organization / Flow
Analytical Rigor (as it pertains to your question)
Map Elements
(Legends, north arrows, scale bars, data sources)

Is it in on time?

Symbology
Methods
Results
Discussion
Conclusion