**Rubric 2: Want to Pass Your Oral Progress Report? Here’s how!**

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| **Characteristic/Quality** | | **Exceptional** | **Standard** | **Not Passing** |
| **Science** | ***Problem (1-2 min)*** | A compelling problem of broad interest is outlined, and put into a context of prior work | The problem is clearly stated | No clear problem is articulated |
| ***Approach (1-2 min)*** | Clearly differentiated and put into context of published studies | Methods explicitly connected to addressing the stated problem | Methods not connected to addressing the stated problem |
| ***What’s new?***  ***(11-13 min)*** | Substantial progress on thesis; interpretation of new results that connect to original problem | Significant new results; some interpretation of the new data | No new results presented |
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| **Presentation** | ***Slides/Talk*** | Slides/Talk is clear, concise, and on time; few if any flaws; | Slides/Talk is clear, concise. Free of long pauses, or distracting gestures or phrasing | Slides/Talk is unclear; poor use of allotted time |
| ***Organization*** | Maximizes audience’s understanding | Talk is on time, easy to follow | Talk is difficult to follow (any of motivation, approach, results, are unclear) |
| ***Q&A*** | Can answer any and all questions; answers demonstrate a command of the thesis, and ancillary subjects | Is able to answer most questions, showing a mastery of the thesis topic | Unable to answer even the most basic questions (such as why the topic, data or approach were chosen) |