

Projects

Goals of this activity

A. Math/content goals

1. Learn more about a topic related to mathematics that interests you and some that interest your classmates.

B. Language and culture goals

1. Practice speaking/presentation skills.
2. Practice writing and research skills.
3. Practice new vocabulary.

You will work in a group of two or four people to research and present a math-related topic of your choice. If you prefer, you can show a video of your presentation instead of presenting live. You will teach the class vocabulary needed to understand your topic.

Possible topics

- Survey HELP students on an issue and report statistics to the class, including averages and standard deviations
- Math in sports such as soccer, baseball, sailing, or surfing
- Converting a recipe from metrics to the English system and doubling or halving the recipe
- Connections between music and math
- Gender differences in mathematics ability (real or imagined?)
- Math history (Pythagoras, Einstein, other famous mathematicians, the origin of zero, the use of an abacus, etc.)
- Your choice (but must be approved by Betsy!)

Your report and presentation

You will work as a group to gather information and prepare a presentation and written report. Your report and presentation must include appropriate content and clearly **show how your topic is related to math.**

Written report

Each member of your group should write **a paragraph or two** that explains their contribution to the project. This can be the same as what you say in your presentation. Be sure to include appropriate content and check your grammar and spelling. This report is due on the day of your presentation.

In the report, **underline at least five words** that are difficult or new to you. At the end of the report, write for each underlined word

- a) the word.
- b) its function, e.g., noun (count or non-count), verb, adjective, adverb, preposition.
- c) its meaning. You can use your dictionary, but write the meaning in your own words. Include pictures or examples if they help explain the meaning.

Presentation

You must use visual aids like **PowerPoint and include pictures and graphs**. Each person in your group must **speak for at least three minutes**. No one may speak for longer than six minutes.

While you are presenting, do not stare at the screen or computer. Do not read directly from your notes. Instead, look up at the audience as much as possible. Speak clearly and not too fast.

When you use a word that is difficult or new to you, including the five underlined words in your report, explain its meaning to the class. Use pictures and examples if they are helpful.

Your grade

You will present your project in class during **Week 3**. You will lose 10 points for each day that your presentation or report is late. You will receive an individual grade as follows.

Requirement	Points possible
You present for at least three minutes but no more than six minutes.	30
You use appropriate visual aids (PowerPoint, pictures, graphs, etc.).	20
You look at the audience and speak clearly when you present.	10
You include appropriate content in the written report and presentation, and you clearly explain how your topic is related to math.	20
Your spelling and grammar are correct in the written report.	10
You explain at least five new words in your presentation and report.	10
Total	100