EECS 498 class topic presentation and report

One important issue in engineering, and embedded systems in particular, is the ability to learn technical material and convey it to other engineers in a clear and efficient way. In addition, embedded systems as a field suffers from the "more than one way to do it" problem. That this, there are *so* many different options for almost any decision that it can become overwhelming. The best way to successfully make good decisions in that environment is to know a little bit about a large number of different things.

As such, each student will be a part of a group of 2-3 students who will give an oral presentation and provide a written document on a specific topic. This will provide members of the group an opportunity to practice important engineering skills while also giving your classmates exposure to a relevant topic and providing archival information to both your classmates as well as others on the web.

Each group will be required to do the following things:

- Come to office hours as a group and discuss your topic with me about 2 weeks before the presentation.
- About 1-1.5 weeks before the presentation's scheduled date your group will give a preliminary presentation out-of-class (generally just to the instructor). Feedback will be provided on both technical and non-technical aspects of the talk.
- About 0.5 weeks beforehand you'll give a "final" practice version of your talk.
- Then you'll have a 25 minute (group of 2) or 35 minute (group of 3) time in class to give the "real" presentation.
- A week after your presenation, a written report will be due.

Presentation

Your group's presentation will be 6% of your class grade. *Generally* the whole group will get the same grade. The grade will be broken down as follows:

10%: preliminary presentation
10%: final practice presentation
80%: classroom presentation

Each will be graded on the basis of technical content, organization, and overall quality of the presentation. Most presentations will fall into one of the following categories.

Students in class should walk away armed with the following knowledge:

- An understanding of how the topic applies to embedded systems (this is often trivial)
- An understanding of the high-level issues associated with the topic

- A detailed understanding of some specific part of the topic. This might mean getting familiar with how a specific part works or something similar.
- An idea of where to go to learn more and where you got your information.

Grading is largely subjective, but what I'm looking for is the successful communication of significant (and correct) technical material to the other members of the class. It is likely that a *small* amount of material from each talk will be on the final. Keep in mind you *generally* want no more than one slide per 1-2 minutes of talking. You are to e-mail the instructor your slides at least 12 hours before the lecture.

Report

You are to write a fairly short (4-7 page) report on the same topic. It should largely cover the same material and should freely use figures and the like to clearly communicate the material. As an appendix include your slides printed 4up (4 on a page). Your report is to be turned in as a pdf file via e-mail. The pdf should have all group members' names on it. Be sure to clearly cite your sources. The report is worth 5% of your class grade.