Three Perspectives on Documentation

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The Beginning

- Create a website
- Switch to blog-entry HTML (~2003)

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>This is a header</h1>

<p>Here's a paragraph</p>

</body>
</html>
```

Grading and Onsite Presentation

- HTML Grading
  - Scale: 0-3
  - Elusive grade of 4 given out for exceptional entries
- Onsite Presentation
  - Talking judges through the blog
  - Computers were allowed when presenting

Changing Onsite Presentation (2006)

Printed document became required

Computers no longer allowed during presentation

Onsite Robot Presentation Scoring Rubric
2006 Botball

Points (across) Criteria (down)	0	1	2	3	4
Presentation and Presentation Materials	Students did not come to the onsite judging session	Students came to session but did not bring any presentation materials	Students came to session and brought limited presentation materials that were not organized/relevant OR came with adequate materials, but did not convey the materials in a meaningful or relevant manner	Students came to session and brought organized/relevant materials in a notebook or folder and conveyed those materials in a meaningful and relevant manner	Students came to session and brought an exceptional written presentation. Students did an exceptional job in conveying the materials in a meaningful and relevant manner

New Style of Documentation (2007)

- Started submitting one document instead of writing a blog
- Different types of files allowed – excel, word, PDF, etc.

New Style of Documentation, cont'd.

- Grading scale 0-6
- In this system, a 4 was a good score
- 5: given up to 10% of teams in a region
- 6: handed out very few times within the entire BOPD season

Documentation Today

- Everything converted to PDF
- Rubrics and examples very specific
- Graded on a 0-100 scale

Figuring it Out

- With so many changes to documentation, teams have to learn to adapt to new criteria and scores

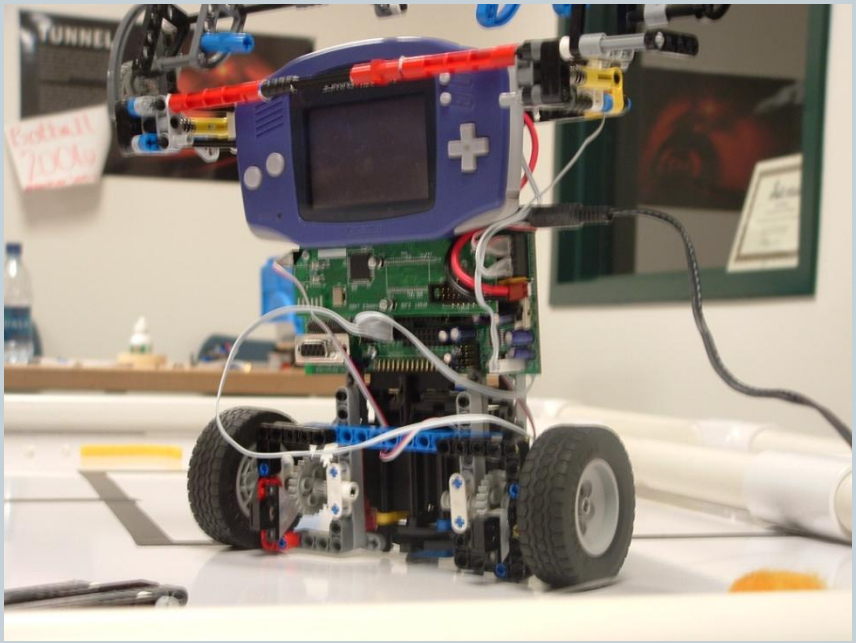
- My experience:
  - Freshmen and sophomore years of high school were difficult
  - Change to uploading documents rather than blogging
  - Rule changes to Onsite Presentations

What I Discovered

- Follow the rubrics
- Start working on submissions early

What I Discovered, cont'd.

- Don't get discouraged by a bad score
- Take pictures



Onsite Presentation Suggestions

- Don’t wait until after period 3 to start preparing for the onsite presentation!
- Pick a theme

Silliness

- Make it fun!
- Use the Onsite Presentation to show creativity
- Smile and have fun and it will come across to the judges

Get Feedback

- Give your documents for BOPD to someone else to read through before you submit them

Get Feedback, cont'd.

- Practice the Onsite Presentation in front of team leaders, mentors or parents

Judging Documentation: What I've Learned

- Start out by keeping it simple, then adding extras
- Follow the rubric & look at the example submissions

Judging Documentation, cont'd.

- If you're running out of time:
  - Start by adding simple things like titles or subtitles to get you easy points
  - Work on things with higher point values
  - Submit what you have even if you don't have much!

Easy Mistakes I've Noticed

- The rubric asks for a list of three things and teams only include two
  - I can't give points for those two things – there is no partial credit for specific items on the rubric

More Easy Mistakes

- The title of the PDF is wrong
  - Teams lose points for not meeting minimum requirements in period 1
  - The submission is not graded in period 2

How Documentation Has Helped in College

- From the early days:
  - HTML and Linux
- In lab classes, binders full of measurements of time and data entry
  - Compare to the number of points a robot scores when you run the program multiple times

Conclusion