

How to Train Your Model

HtTYM 2026 · Saturday Presentations — A Short Guide

On Saturday afternoon we each present our project to the whole group and open it up for discussion. It's one room and one shared deck, so slides go in ahead of time and we keep a brisk pace. Here's what to prepare.

1. How it works

One room, whole group. We move through the shared deck team by team.

About 10 minutes each — roughly 5–6 min to present, 4–5 for discussion. We keep the clock moving.

One shared deck. Drop your slides in ahead of time so we can start on time.

4–5 slides: Context · Results (1–2) · Next Steps & Questions.

The goal isn't a polished result — it's honest signal: what worked (especially the surprises), what was hard, and where you'd like help.

2. What to put on your slides

Copy these from the template deck and fill them in.

Context — one slide

Orient the room fast so they can give useful feedback:

- **Presenter** — name, role, institution / lab.
- **The problem** — what you're predicting or designing, in 1–2 sentences.
- **Model & approach** — base model or architecture; fine-tune, rewrite, or from scratch.
- **The data** — what it is, how much, format.
- **The goal** — what “it worked” would look like.

Sharing background with a groupmate? One shared context slide is fine — then each of you highlight what's different.

Results: successes & failures — one or two slides

The heart of your talk. Show the outcomes of your training runs:

- **What worked** — and call out anything that worked surprisingly well.
- **What didn't** — what broke, what was hard, the pitfalls. Often the most useful minutes for the room.
- **Interpret, don't just display** — label your axes and say what you concluded.

Next Steps & Questions — one slide

- **Where you're headed next** — your current thinking.
- **Your ask** — blockers, a decision you're stuck on, “has anyone done X?” The clearer it is, the better the feedback.

3. Give good feedback

Half the value is the discussion, and in one room on a tight clock it depends on all of us. Come with one concrete thing per talk — a tool, a paper, an idea. Answer the presenter's ask first, keep it specific and kind, and jot feedback down so they keep it.

4. Your teams

You'll present with your team, and we move through the deck team by team. The four themes:

Theme	Lead
Diffusion models	Aiko Muraishi (Baker Lab)
Antibodies, every way	Zach Drake (Lindert Lab)
Fine-tuning & building on existing models	Kuniko Hunter (Meiler Lab)
Sequence-based models	Kush Narang (Yarov-Yarovoy Lab)

Questions as you prepare? Ask your group lead, post in Slack, or reach out to the instructor team.