Over the course of the semester, each student in the class will deliver two short presentations on some aspect of Computer Science. The purpose of these presentations is to introduce you to a few of the many ideas in the field so that hopefully, by the end of the semester, you will have acquired a better sense of what Computer Science is all about. Each of the presentations will be based on one of the 66 chapters in The New Turing Omnibus: 66 Excursions in Computer Science.

We will generally have two presentations every Thursday, with a few more thrown in at other times as well. Each presentation should last 15–25 minutes. One week prior to your scheduled presentation, you will hand me an outline detailing the content and order of the topics you will talk about. Then you and I will sit down and discuss your presentation, and you can ask me any questions you might have.

Each you needs to choose your two topics by class time on Friday, January 30. You should send me an email containing your top 5 (or more) choices (chapter numbers). I will assign everyone’s chapters on a first come, first served basis, so it pays to be prompt! If 4 or 5 of your choices have already been chosen by another student, I will let you know and you can choose again.

If you don’t have a preference or you would rather leave it to chance, let me know and I will assign you two chapters myself.

Don’t be afraid to choose a topic that you have never heard of. The point here is to learn something new. So be brave! All of the chapters are short and targeted at novices.

I will publish the schedule of presentations on Monday, February 2, based on relationships between the topics. The presentations will commence on Thursday, February 12.