

How to Make Oral Presentations on Your Research Papers

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I. General tips:

- Out of the entire time allowed for your presentation (e.g., 10 minutes, 30 minutes), spend 70% presenting the main findings or points of your research.
- Spend the rest 30% for discussion. **The more** responses you get, **the better** it will make your presentations since it will suggest that it was interesting and easy to follow.
- **Important:** The audience has the responsibility to ask questions after each presentation.
- You can use powerpoint slides or any web sources if you want. But whichever mode you adopt, please you bring a **hard copy handout** for everyone (including **the instructor**).

II. More on how to organize your presentation:

- **Introduction:** state clearly what the topic is and what you wanted to find out by conducting this research. Please make it to the point and interesting so that you can draw the audience's attention.
- **Background:** say what the previous works have said about your topic but don't make it too lengthy. Just mention one or two most representative claims that your analysis builds on or takes issue with. If you're analyzing a language other than English, please say something about it at this point too, so that we'll know where it's spoken and what kind of grammatical or morphological features it has, etc. (Depending on the nature of your paper, this information can be **given in the Analysis section instead**.) If you're running interviews with people or watch TV shows to gather data, then talk about the methodology briefly, that is, how you gathered or are gathering the data (again, this information can be given **at the beginning of your analysis section instead**).
- **Analysis:** Outline your findings and discuss what they mean. When you do this, please make clear which of your findings are **new** and which are old. This will involve clarifying how your findings support what people have said or disputes it. Furthermore, it will show how your research contributes to the on-going debate on the topic.
- **Conclusion:** summarize the high points of your research and say something about the big picture issues, that is, what kind of questions your work raises for future research.

Note: You can use a similar organization for **your papers** as well, with each section more expanded upon. **Your paper must contain clear section headings (e.g., Introduction, Background, Analysis).**