

How to Create an Oral Research Presentation

UCSB McNair Scholars 2011 Summer Program



Purpose of an Oral Research Presentation

An Oral Research Presentation is meant to showcase your research findings.

In the academic community a well done oral research presentation should:

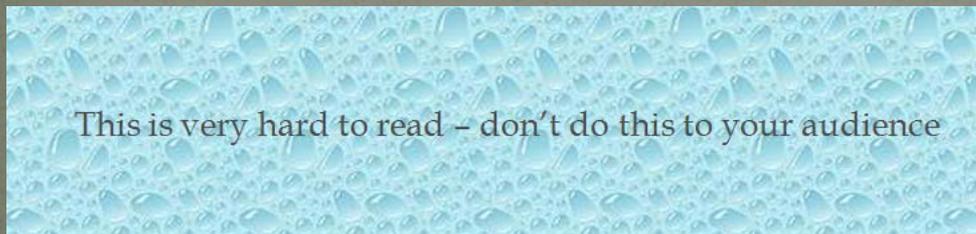
- communicate the importance of your research
- clearly state your finding and the analysis of those findings
- prompt others in the academic community to ask questions and give you valuable feedback that could further, and strengthen, your research

Technical Aspects of a Presentation

Background

- Use simple backgrounds that provide some visual interest
- Always use the same background throughout the presentation
- Try not to use backgrounds that are distracting or make it difficult to read the words

Example:



This is not easy to read either

Or this

Technical Aspects of a Presentation

Color

- Use a text color that contrasts with the background
- Use color for **emphasis**
- Keep colors simple; less is more
- Use colors sparingly
- Use colors to tie points together

Technical Aspects of a Presentation

Fonts

- Fonts should be standard and easy to read
 - Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri
- The title of the slide should be about 44-point
- The body of the slide should be about 22-point
- You do not want your font too small so that your audience has to strain to read it
- CAPITALIZE ONLY TO MAKE A POINT – NOT ALL THE TIME
- STAY AWAY FROM COMPLICATED FONTS
- Use one font style throughout

Technical Aspects of a Presentation

Slide Layout

- Avoid text heavy slides
 - Avoid full paragraphs unless quoting
- Create a slide for each main point because it
 - Keeps presentation focused
 - Helps the audience concentrate on each point
 - Prevents audience from reading ahead

Components of an Oral Research Presentation

- Each research presentation, regardless of your field of study, should contain some common sections
- Be aware that your particular research project will dictate the exact sections you will have
 - Introduction
 - Background/Literature Review
 - Research Question(s)
 - Research Methods
 - Findings/Data
 - Discussion/Conclusion(s)
 - Future Research
 - References
 - Acknowledgements
 - Questions

Title Slide

- Each presentation will have a title slide
- The title slide must contain the title of your project, which must be the same title you used for your abstract submission
- People will decide whether they want to attend your presentation based only on your title and abstract
- It must include your name, your faculty mentor's name and department, and the name and location of your institution

Title Slide Examples

Athletes and Self-Concept:

An Exploration of Role Distance Between Real and Performer Self-Concept

Richard A. Espinoza
Faculty Advisor: Steve R. Smith, Ph.D.
Dept. of Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology
University of California, Santa Barbara

The Division of Childcare Labor in Gay Male Partnerships

Nathaniel Scheidemen
Dr. Beth Schneider, Faculty Mentor
Department of Sociology
University of California, Santa Barbara



Introduction

Humanities/Social Science

- In this section you want to inform your audience of all the relevant background information of your research project
- Each bullet point should be a concise summary of what you will tell the audience verbally

Physical Science

- This is the section where you should explain why this research is important
- Give your audience the broader impact of your research so that they will have some context to put your scientific data into

Background/Literature Review

Humanities/Social Science

- This will be a brief literature review for your audience, where you discuss only the most relevant articles or texts that you used in your research
- In this section you would want to list the author(s) and a brief statement about what you gleaned from their work and how it helps aid your research
- If you are citing a text you might want to include an image of the book cover
- In some cases, an example would be historical texts, you may want to include an image of the author

Background/Literature Review

Physical Science

- This will be more of a background section, but you will cite your sources
- This section is where you start to discuss other studies that have been performed
- You want to convey what's been done and how your research is different or an improvement

Ex:

Fascaplysin selectively inhibits Cdk4 ($IC_{50} = 0.55 \mu\text{M}$) and also suppresses the proliferation of leukemia cells L-1210 ($ED_{50} = 0.2 \mu\text{m mL}^{-1}$).^{1,2}

1. Garcia, Marcos, D.; Wilson, A. James; Emmerson, Daniel P. G.; Jenkins, Paul R. *Chem. Commun.* **2006**, 2586-2588.

2. Aubry, C.; Wilson, A. J.; Jenkins, P. R.; Mahale, S.; Chaudhuri, B.; Marechal, Jean-Didier; Sutcliffe, M. J. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2006**, *4*, 787-801.

Research Question(s)

- State your research question – it should stand alone on this slide
- This section should not be fancy and will most likely only be one to two sentences
- The goal is to showcase your research question so that your audience can let it sink in for a moment

Example research question:

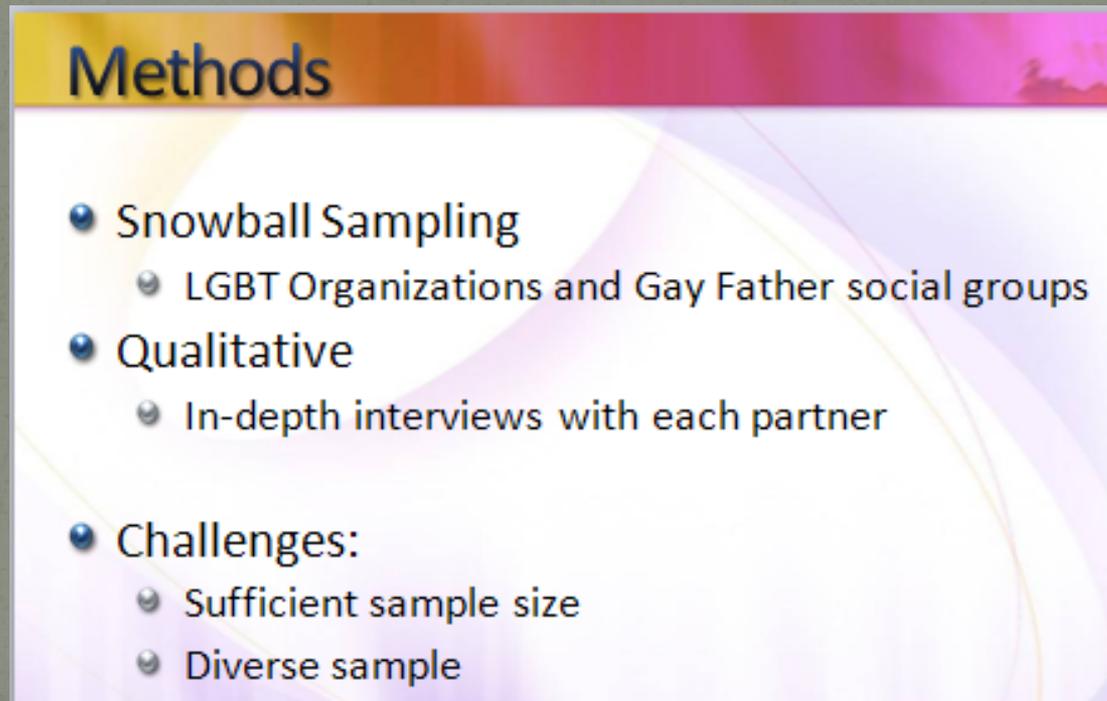
Research Question

- What is the impact of social-economic structures and cultural trends on the intergenerational perceptions of marriage among African American women?

Research Methods

In this section you should share with your audience how you went about collecting and analyzing your data

Example 1:



Methods

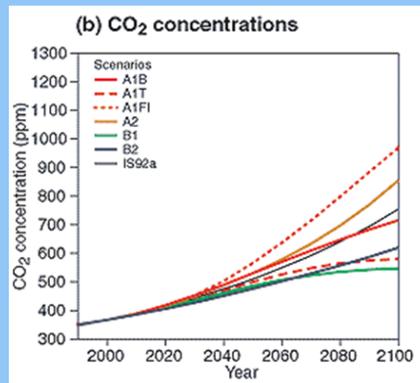
- Snowball Sampling
 - LGBT Organizations and Gay Father social groups
- Qualitative
 - In-depth interviews with each partner
- Challenges:
 - Sufficient sample size
 - Diverse sample

Research Methods

Example 2:

Methods

Fertilization success and early development were examined



- Three water temperatures (14°C, 18.5°C, and 23°C)
- Three CO₂ levels (380ppm, 550ppm, 990ppm)

Methods



Larval Buckets

- Fangué et al 2010

Water Quality

- Dickson et al 2007

Findings/Data

- In this section you want to clearly organize and display your data and findings
- This is where graphs, charts and images are most helpful
- Let the data do the talking in this section and just explain the graphs, charts and images that you are presenting to your audience
- You will analyze and discuss this data in the next section

Do's and Don'ts of Graphs

- Not every table and graph is good
- Do your best to display your data in the most clear, concise way possible
- Remember that your audience will only have a minute or less to view your table/graph

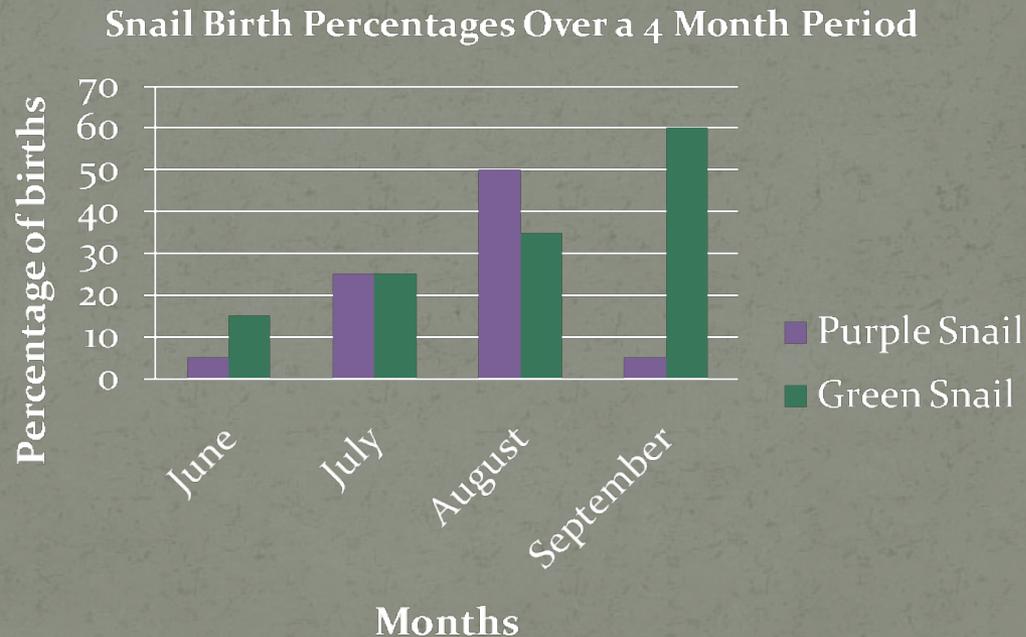
Examples:

	June	July	August	September
Purple Snails	5	25	50	5
Green Snails	15	25	35	60

Do you think this is a good table?

Do's and Don'ts of Graphs

The following is a much better way to display the data on the previous slide:



What makes this graph so much better than the table on the previous slide?

Discussion/Conclusion(s)

- This section is a concise summary of your main findings
- Ideally you should be able to state the answer to your research question that you initially posed in the beginning
 - If you have only begun to answer your research question tell the audience what you know thus far and what you plan to do next to fully answer that question
- This is also where you will analyze and discuss the answers you obtained from the data you showed on the previous slides
- Do not make this slide too overwhelming, but rather keep it to the main findings

Future Research

Not all presentations will have this section, but at your stage of research you will most likely have future research goals.

- State your goals in a bulleted format
- Add a sentence about why you believe the research should go in this direction
- You may want to briefly mention how you plan to implement these research goals

References

- In this section you *do not* want to include your entire reference list that is in your research paper
- It's best to include 3-5 key references
- Be sure your references are in the proper format (APA, ASA, ACS, MLA or Chicago style) for your field of study

Acknowledgements

This section is used to thank the people, programs and funding agencies that allowed you to perform your research.

Be sure to thank:

- Your faculty mentor
- Any post-docs or graduate students that may have helped you
- The UCSB McNair Scholars Program
- And anyone else you may want to add

Questions?

- It's great to include a final slide that simply says "Questions?" or "Any Questions?" in the center of the slide

If you DO NOT know the answer to a question:

- It is always a bad idea to "fake" an answer to a question
- Just say something like:

"I actually don't know the answer to that,
but it's a great question and I will look
into it."

- Follow-up with this person after your presentation so you can send them information on what you discover
- It's often a good idea to have some extra slides prepared at the end of your presentation to answer anticipated questions

Any Questions?