Best Practices for Creating and Delivering Oral Research Presentations

DR. NANCY A. CHEEVER
PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Oral Presentations

Also called a “talk”

Given by first author, PI, or multiple authors

Visual representation of research

- can be a study, proposal, body of work

Uses presentation tools such as Power Point

Set time limit (10 min for SRD)

Shared with other scholars

Q&A after

Often judged
Creating an Oral Presentation
Research Presentation

Use presentation software (Power Point)

Common slide titles:
- Introduction
- Purpose
- Literature review
- Research question(s) and/or hypotheses
- Method
- Results
- Discussion
- Implications and limitations (Conclusion)

Consult the conference guidelines for details
Templates

Use an interesting but appropriate template

- Subtle
- Not too much color
- Allow content to shine

Use attractive but not distractive slides

Black type with white or light background is best
Slide Design

When designing a presentation:

• Use bullets to summarize points
• Use phrases rather than full sentences
• Text includes main points
  • Presenter expands on points
• Use consistent spacing throughout
• Use consistent font types/sizes throughout
Bullets

Use different symbol for each layer of bullets

➢ Like this
  ▪ Use smaller sub bullets

Minimize space between text and bullet point (two to three spaces)

  ▪ Example of too much space

Minimize word usage

  ◦ Limit to one line
  ◦ Should be an outline
  ◦ Not full sentences
Fonts

Serif vs. sans serif fonts

- Serif = has “legs” (e.g., Times)
  - Easy to read when text is small
- Sans serif = no legs (e.g., Arial narrow)
  - Works with larger type

Examples of effective fonts for presentations

- Tw Cen MT
- Calibri
- Arial
Text Size

Title size: 36-50 (depends on font)

Text size: between 20 and 28

- Be consistent throughout presentation
- Minimum size should be 20
- References can be smaller size

**Bold text** when emphasizing point

No more than three different text sizes on one slide
Organization

Presentation should:

◦ Have a logical flow
◦ Follow the manuscript
◦ Include titles for each section

Vary look of slides

◦ Some slides with text
◦ Some slides with graphics
Illustrations

Use graphics/pictures relevant to content

- High resolution (300 DPI)

Placement depends on its importance

- Do not overpower text with graphics

Avoid using images from Google search

- Use Wikimedia Commons, Flickr, built-in clip art
- Images that are free to use
Charts and Graphs

Necessary for presenting data
- Represent your data
- Show your results

Add titles, labels, scale, etc. (APA format)

One graph per slide

Keep it simple

Consider which graphs to use
Charts and Graphs

Use pointer to draw attention to areas on chart

Use dissimilar colors
  - distinguish groups, lines, bars

Tables should be in APA format
  - include statistical significance (if applicable)

Do not use SPSS or R output!
  - use the built-in PowerPoint charts, if you can
I am satisfied with the lab equipment...
# PTSD Level and Media and Technology Usage

ANOVA results for Media and Technology Use by Level of PTSD in each sample

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<th>MTUA Subscale</th>
<th>Veterans Mean</th>
<th>Veterans SD</th>
<th>Civilians Mean</th>
<th>Civilians SD</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>9.17</td>
<td>25.61</td>
<td>7.27</td>
<td>.173</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>Text messaging</td>
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<td>7.01</td>
<td>23.52</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>.329</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>3.84</td>
<td>13.02</td>
<td>4.71</td>
<td>.978</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>21.93</td>
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<td>19.61</td>
<td>.185</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>TV viewing</td>
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<td>5.47</td>
<td>11.11</td>
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<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>8.88</td>
<td>18.97</td>
<td>9.24</td>
<td>.461</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>28.47</td>
<td>7.69</td>
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<td>8.08</td>
<td>15.11</td>
<td>8.30</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>&lt; .05*</td>
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<td>&lt; .05*</td>
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<td>.397</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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<td>3.03</td>
<td>4.34</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>&gt; .05</td>
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</table>

Note: * = p < .05
Graphs

Use charts in Power Point for best display
U.S. Fruit Consumption

- Grape
- Orange
- Banana
- Kiwi

2000 | 2010 | 2020
Animations and Transitions

Animations

- Used for guiding your audience with bullets
- Avoid using fancy animations
- Use “appear”
- Dimming can be helpful for the reader

Use slide transitions sparingly

~ 1 minute per slide

- ~ 20 slides for 15- to 20-minute presentation
Video and Audio

Videos

◦ Can connect video links from YouTube
◦ OR play video in a separate window
◦ OR use “embedded” videos

Audio only

◦ Use embedded audio

PowerPoint tips
Citations and References

Cite all sources appropriately
Use APA or MLA format
Give citations for measures and scales

Provide references at end of presentation
Don’t necessarily show them

Cite all studies, even if not published
Can be smaller font size
Delivering an Oral Presentation
Prepare

Once presentation is complete, practice a few times for flow
➢ Make any changes to slides

Next, practice for time
➢ Make any changes to slides

Next, present to your mentor and/or lab group
➢ Make any changes to slides

Finally, practice in front of a mirror for clarity
➢ Correct speed, cadence, any “ums” and “ahs”
➢ Use appropriate language (if jargon, explain terms)
Prepare

Time yourself (use “presenter” view)
Try out the slides on different computers
Save as pptx, save as a PDF
Triple-check all spelling and grammar
Test animations and slide transitions
Practice!
During Presentation

Dress appropriately

Engage your audience
  • Have ally in audience (“one minute left!”)
  • Eye contact
  • Walk around
    ▪ Use clicker to advance slides

Be prepared to answer questions
  • Contradictory or surprising findings
  • Future research
  • Real world implications/applications
Tips

Rehearse while timing your presentation

- Present to different groups
- Practice by yourself
- Get feedback, including negative feedback

Be prepared for problems

- Bring backup copies of slides (email to yourself)
- Have your own laptop, mouse, pointer
Your role is to present your research in a clear and engaging manner.

Your audience is interested in your research.

Turn anxious feelings into excitement (they are the same feeling).

The more you do it, the easier it becomes.

You’ve got this!!

Keep in Mind ...
Thank you!

ncheever@csudh.edu