Communicate your research to an audience

STUDY SMARTER RESEARCH SERIES

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“If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.”
– Albert Einstein

Characteristics of a good presentation

In pairs, think of seminars you have attended recently.

• What makes a presentation ‘good’?
• What engages you?
• What turns you off?
• Think about
  • content
  • personal appearance
  • slides
  • other things?

Why present?

Purpose & benefits

Help achieve clarity of expression
Help develop your argument
Tell audience the significance of your research
Receive feedback
Share your research ideas

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Successful presentations

Plan
- time
- audience
- purpose

Prepare
- content

Perform

Plan

Ask yourself
- Why is this important?
- Why am I presenting this information?
- What information do I want the audience to go away with?

Ask yourself
- Know your audience
- Be clear about your purpose
- Know your content

Preparation

I have __________ minutes

The audience will be __________________________

I’m going to talk about (general topic)_______________

The main points I want to convey are ____________

Structure
Choose key points

Today I’d like to discuss ...
For example X suggests ...
A contrary view is ...

The first point is ...
In conclusion/ I think it’s clear now that...
Be effective

- State your aim/purpose early.
- Contextualise your research.
- Present your main points & findings in a logical order.
- Use discourse markers, e.g. First, In contrast…
- Finish with a clear/strong message.

Using powerpoint

- Use bullet points.
- Use sentence case, not UPPER CASE.
- Use a font size all in room can see – at least 24 point. This is 28 point.
- Use diagrams and pictures whenever possible.
- Include key points only. ‘Value add’ to your slides.
- Use a ‘clicker’ so you can move away from the computer.

Practise

The benefits of practising seminar and conference presentations include…

*Increased confidence* in relation to
  - your expression
  - your content/topic
  - the coherence and flow of your ideas
  - using powerpoint

*Clarity* about
  - what you can convey in the time you have
  - what points to put in and keep out
  - what information you want the audience to leave with

Your ideas
What about nerves?

How do I get my butterflies to fly in formation?

Practising the content and learning relaxation techniques help. So does breathing!

Reflect on your performance

What went well? Why?

Timing
Content
Organisation
Body language
Powerpoint slides
Questions

What could I improve?

A great example

Trans-Tasman Three Minute Thesis competition

In 2013, a UWA PhD postgraduate, Kelsey Kennedy, was the Grand Final winner and the People’s Choice winner

Feeling for cancer: An imaging tool to make breast cancer surgery more effective
http://vimeo.com/84546240

Upcoming Honours & Masters workshop

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 14 April 12-1</td>
<td>Practise your seminar presentation Let me know if you’re interested <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Lange@uwa.edu.au">Cheryl.Lange@uwa.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Thurs 16 April 1-2</td>
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Coursework Research Forum
http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/1886688
Resources

Guiding the audience - signalling words and phrases

Manchester University Phrasebank http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

McConnell, S. Designing effective scientific presentations
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHq7d9Yb9XQ

Non-native speakers of Australian English you could listen to watch the TV show Neighbours for Australian accents http://neighbours.com.au/

TED talks http://www.youtube.com/user/TEDtalksDirector

Thesis Whisperer http://thesiswhisperer.com/shut-up-and-write/

YouTube videos of 3 minute thesis presentations