

Short Presentations

During this Research Methodology course you will be required to prepare and deliver two short presentations. The first presentation will be given before mid term, and the second presentation will be given at the end of the term.

Preparing the Presentations

Each presentation should last about three minutes, and should be illustrated by six slides. Print your slides on A4 size paper with two slides on each sheet. Prepare the slides yourself; *do not copy and paste text from the internet*. Use your own drawings and photographs, if you have them. If you use figures that are not your own you must quote the source on the slide.

Ideas based on *How to Get Your Point Across in 30 Seconds or less* by Milo O. Frank, 1990

Timing

- Plan to present each slide in 30 seconds. You can say about 100 words in 30 seconds.
- People have a short attention span. For this reason advertisements on TV are only 30 seconds long.

Presentation Style

- Use simple images and text on your slides. Your audience will not have time to understand too many details.
- Present what you want to say as concisely and as clearly as possible.

Prepare what you want to say in advance

- Do not memorize your statements or read them word-for-word from a written text.
- When you are confident about your message, you can say it naturally in your own words.

The Spotlight is on You

- The impression you give is as important as what you say.
- Speak to your audience as if they are your friends and you are telling them something interesting.

First Presentation

Your Favorite Creative Hobby

Tell the audience about the way you like to spend your spare time creatively. Give a short description of your activity. Say why it interests you.

Here are examples of interesting pastimes: reading books, writing, drawing and painting, playing a musical instrument, making models; playing outdoor sports, cycling, swimming, running, walking; bird watching, collecting wild flowers; gardening, cooking, looking after pets.

Your topic should not be a passive way of spending time like watching TV, listening to pop music, surfing the internet, playing computer games, drinking with friends, etc.

A Unique Experience

Alternatively, you may like to tell the audience about an interesting experience you once had, such as climbing a high mountain, going on a voyage across the sea, escaping from a flood, visiting an ancient ruin.

Second Presentation

Good and Bad Practice in Research

Tell the audience about an experience of yours that was an example of either good practice or bad practice in research.

Examples of good practice may be a new idea for getting better results in an experiment, or the discovery of something that was not known before.

Examples of bad practice may be a failed experiment and how it could be done properly, an unethical practice that you have witnessed such as cheating, plagiarism, or the false reporting of results. (You need not identify the people who behaved unethically.)

RHBE, August 2017.
