

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT: FINAL PRESENTATION

(Due December 17 @ 9:00 AM)

Goal: Deliver a substantial and effective presentation of your research project to a (mock) panel of judges from a major funding agency. Individual presentations should be **no more than 25 minutes**, including 5 minutes for questions.

Required format: The presentation should be prepared using PowerPoint (or equivalent software). It is strongly recommended that you use the presenters' tool to insert notes of what you plan to say. *All slides must be emailed to me by December 17, 8:45 AM; make sure to include all the necessary materials (video/audio files). All materials should be sent in a single folder;* it is also recommended to save the single folder on a thumb drive as back up.

Grading: This assignment will count for 50 points out of 100. The grade will be based on adherence to instructions (5), quality of delivery (20), quality of contents (20), and timely submission (5 points); see the attached evaluation sheet. Because this presentation counts as the final exam, each student is required to attend the entire duration of the presentations; *no make-up will be given unless supported by a Dean's permission.*

Although presentations will vary in style, they should include **all the components listed below**; each component may be represented by one or a few slides. Note that the amount of time spent on each component will vary depending on the specific nature of the project and the state of research on this topic.

1. LARGER CONTEXT

- Situate your project within some everyday life element.

2. RESEARCH QUESTION

- State the question as clearly and succinctly as possible; include all necessary definitions.

3. SO WHAT?

- Why should the audience care about this particular question? Are there larger implications?

4. BACKGROUND RESEARCH/PREVIOUS FINDINGS

- What is the current state of knowledge/research on this topic? What are the specific findings directly relevant to your project?
- Divide previous work and findings done into 2-3 categories based on different aspects of the question or research methods used.

5. HYPOTHESIS STATEMENT/SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Re-state your question in terms of variables, measures, and possible outcomes (i.e., if behavior *A* is observed, it will suggest *a*, and if behavior *B* is observed, it will suggest *b*).
- If your research does not involve a behavioral experiment but some other form of empirical method, you can still form a hypothesis, but it might be stated in a (somewhat) different format. Alternatively, you may present a set of specific questions.

6. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN/RESEARCH METHOD

- Describe the proposed experiment as clearly and concretely as possible, including source materials (you may include a sample) & methods (task, procedure, participants, variables, measures, data analysis).
- Include some kind of figure that clarifies the experimental design in some way; this can help clarify the procedure and might save a lot of time.
- Identify at least one musical example you plan to use either for analysis or as source materials for your proposed experimental design, and make it part of your presentation (i.e., play a recording, if available, or present it as an example).
- NOTE: If your research does not involve a behavioral experiment, this section should be adapted to your methodology. For example, if your work involves corpus analysis (i.e., the systematic analysis of a given characteristic in a representative sample from a particular body of works), you should provide a description of the method and a sample analysis. If the research on your topic is still in its infancy, say how you plan to advance the research, and be as specific as possible.

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS/DISCUSSION

- Identify possible applications of your findings and/or important questions/issues on which your research is likely to shed some light. NOTE: This section is a way to re-visit the “So what?” question you initially addressed, but in the light of your proposal.

8. REFERENCES

- Your final slide should include a list of all references; make sure to use APA style throughout; you may use the references section of the structured abstract template as an example.