Presentation Slides

Posted on: Monday, July 15, 2019 2:14:07 PM CDT

I have completed review of your Presentation slides. Please make sure to review the comments I have provided -- there are specific comments made on the slides as notes, and I have also provided a summary of major items to consider within the comments section. As you review this feedback, please feel free to reach out for any clarification as needed. As a class, there are some general reminders I would like to share:

The first slide should include the title of your research project -- this essentially teases for your audience the focus of your work. On the slides that follow, you should then focus on presenting necessary background information before you state your research objective(s). That way, by the time you declare the focus of your study, the audience already has been alerted to what's already known about the topic and they can make a more complete assessment of what you propose. If you present the objective before the background, the audience may not have a full comprehension of the nuanced work you proposed.

After declaring your objective, it will then be important to move on to describing the data you worked with. Please make clear what information you had at your disposal from original sets, and then move onto explaining how you created your data set(s) and features of the data you used in subsequent analyses.

Once you have established your working data, you will then need to move on to a style that alternates between describing the relevant method, followed by the consequent results; you should then move on to the next method, and its results. Continue this pattern until you have presented all results. This is very different from providing one list of all methods, and then providing all results. While this segregated approach works in the context of your written reports (where a reader always has the ability to back to the relevant place in the Methods section if something in the Results requires additional clarification), the medium of oral presentation needs to recognize that it is harder to hold on to specific, detailed information for very long when heard verbally (and it is not possible to back reference). If you provide all methods together before moving on to the first result, it is very likely that your audience may have already forgotten the associated procedural information. Thus, by integrating the two portions, it is much easier for the audience to hear the relevant method and then immediately evaluate the results you are presenting.

After all results are presented, make sure to provide a discussion/conclusion slide, on which you evaluate the merits of your work. Summarize the ways in which your results have been successful, but also acknowledge shortcomings in the work you performed. Remember, these self criticisms should reflect upon ways that your handling of the data or analyses may have been flawed -- which is different from pointing out deficiencies in the data. However, as you move on to considering future directions for this work, it would then be fair to point out how different/improved research (including additional data) could handle meeting your objective (or extensions of your objective). When speaking about future work, then the sky can really be the limit. However, before getting to this point, you need to demonstrate that you understand why or why not what you've completed so far has had success.

When presenting text on your slides (either on its own or within tables/figures) make sure that it is large enough to easily be read when your slides are shared within the Collaborate environment. Remember, the slides will not come across as full screen -- so with this given limitation, check that your audience will be able to read what you are showing.

For figures that you are using from other sources, make sure to cite the source on the slide. Please use the format like was asked for when you gave your presentation last semester. As a reminder, here is a PowerPoint file that gave you tips for designing a presentation, and here is another example presentation I had shared with you. Don't forget to then place the full reference information on your reference slide at the end of the presentation. As shown in the example presentation, consider data panels you generated (tables and/or figures) as the equivalent of the figures from the article that was presented (do not need an on-slide citation), and treat all other outside images as requiring citations.

When you share your presentation within Collaborate, please be aware that there are two methods you can use (more information is available in the instruction guide for using Collaborate). If you choose to upload the file directly, it will be easy to advance the slides from one to the next, but Collaborate does not do well with running animations built into the file. If you wanted to use animations, you could handle this in one of two ways:

One option is to plan on running the file directly within PowerPoint and then sharing your screen/application with Collaborate. If this is the method you decide to use, make sure to practice your presentation and check that everything works. If you have a second computer at your disposal, you can access the room twice, once giving yourself a "name" where you want to play the role of the person presenting, and the second where you (or a friend you choose to share the link with) can see what the slides look like if you are functioning as an audience member. If you elect to share the link, though, be aware that once this link is given out, the same link can be used at any time to return to the room -- you do not want this access to be used by someone else during your scheduled presentation time, causing disruptions.

Another option is to reformat your PowerPoint slides so that you can achieve a similar effect to the animation (such as having an item appear) by having varied versions of the slide back to back within the presentation. If you use this approach, you won't be able to use varied appearances (such as fade in and out), but could, by duplicating and modifying the slide, allow the second iteration to present something different just by advancing to the next slide. Again, I strongly suggest doing a trial with this approach as well so that you can check that your presentation materials appear the way you wish.

You each have a unique Collaborate session link I have provided via email -- if you haven't already, use the link to access the session and make sure that you are able to successfully use the platform. Now is the time to work out any technical difficulties -- contact me ASAP should you run into problems.

Between now and your scheduled presentation time later this week (at the time I communicated with you individually), you will need to revise your slides using the provided comments. You must submit the revised version of the slides before you give your presentation (see the assignment within Week 7), and then use that same version for your presentation. There are points allocated to the submission of these updated slides. Make sure to practice your presentation, too, so that you feel comfortable with sharing the story of your project, and feel comfortable falling within the time expectations for your presentation.

On the day of your presentation, please make sure that you have joined the session and have your slides ready to go at least 10 minutes in advance of your scheduled presentation time. We will plan on beginning promptly, and will have 60 minutes in total for you to discuss your work. Remember, your prepared presentation should last ~40-45 minutes. We will then use the remainder of the hour on questions. I suggest that you are prepared to take notes about content that is discussed as part of this question/answer period, as the feedback you receive is important for making revisions within your final written report, too. Often, this discussion will help to point out concepts that may not have been clearly articulated, or may shed light on alterations in your research that will make your project even more successful.

I look forward to hearing from you later this week! If you have questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Feedback note:

As you work on revising this set of slides ahead of your presentation later this week, here are some things to keep in mind:

- General organization:  All background information should be given at the start, presented with the most general concepts first, followed by increasing more refined/sophisticated concepts later.  After all background has been presented, then make clear the rationale for the topic you selected and the specific objective(s) of your research.  Then please use an alternating approach of method-associated result, method-associated result, and repeat until all has been presented.  Finally, make sure that your discussion/conclusion covers all material presented.  Make sure that your evaluation is pertinent to the work you performed, rather than just mentioning studies you wished you could have accomplished but did not because of data limitations.

- Make sure that it is clear why all components presented are necessary.  For example, you provide information about linkage disequalibrium, but this is not a concept that you were able to assess, given that your data did not provide any information about genotypes (different distribution of SNPs).  LD and location of genes along a chromosome is important for the actual genetic code, but that is not related to the data that you included here (about expression level).  Thus, this information is off topic and it is not clear why it was included.

- The most relevant information given the data you worked with had to do with building models about determining UL/non-UL given expression patterns.  However, information about these models is underdeveloped and not the focus of your presentation.  It seems that you need to shift the focus of your work to the analysis that best answers your question, and eliminate information that is off topic.

Additional specific comments are included on slides directly.  Please review these and update as prompted.  I will expect to see significant changes by the time of your presentation, and these alterations should be reflected in your paper as well.﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿﻿