Here are some **tips** for your oral presentations.

Practice - The more you practice, the more polished, engaging, and clear your presentation will be. You are also less likely to run over time or drive your audience crazy with "ummms." If you're unsure whether you've practiced enough, consider this: you should continue to practice until you can speak naturally and fluidly without referencing notes. When you've reached that point, you've practiced enough.

Timing - You have 10 minutes for presenting and 5 min for Q&A. When you practice, time yourself. Make sure your presentation doesn't go over 10 minutes.

Powerpoint, figures, and text – Generally, avoid putting text on your slides unless a) you're stating something formal like a hypothesis or a research question, b) you've created a diagram or other figure that involves text or c) you're listing implications, limitations, or future directions. For these types of lists, describe each item in the list in no more than 5 words, and then expand on each item orally. Do not put long sentences on your slides. Whenever you can replace text with a figure, you should. The point is that your slides should primarily contain figures, including images of your materials/tasks, figures related to previous research (could be of the materials/task, the results, or just a screen shot of the top of the paper), matrices representing the experimental design, charts plotting your predictions/predicted results, and other images, diagrams, or figures.

Presentation program – Be advised that the computer in the classroom runs Windows 7 and has Microsoft PowerPoint installed. If you use another presentation program, I strongly advise you test out your presentation on a computer with PowerPoint ahead of time to make sure it's compatible and there are no problems. Also, if you use PowerPoint on a Mac, I would recommend checking your file on a Windows machine since files often don't format perfectly going between Windows and Mac. If you are using a cloud-based program like Prezi, you should be fine.

Setting up – An assignment has been added to OWL called "Oral Presentation PPTs." If you are presenting on Wednesday March 29th, please upload your .ppt to OWL by 11:55PM on Tuesday March 28th. If you are presenting on Wednesday April 5th, please upload your .ppt to OWL by 11:55PM on Tuesday April 4th This way we can easily access the files on Wednesday without losing too much time. If you are using a cloud-based program like Prezi, there is no need to upload a file, but make sure you have the link handy for Wednesday.

Questions and Answers
Q. "I know you mentioned we can't use the articles we discussed in class. Did you mean we couldn't use them at all or they just don't count towards the 5 sources we need to use?"
A: Just that they don't count toward the 5. You can certainly use them.

Q: "In regard to the PowerPoint, are we allowed to use videos or any other sort of multimedia, or is it strictly PowerPoint with text and pictures?"
A. Video is OK, just watch your time because 10 minutes fly by!

Q: "Just wanted to check - do the supplementary readings count towards our 5 references or would they be considered additional?"
A: They count.

Q: "For the oral presentation, can we/should we use a PowerPoint presentation? Or should we stick to just speaking and only use visual aid if it's absolutely necessary?"
A: PPT is just an aid to help you explain your proposal. If you think it won't help, don't use it. If you think it will, by all means use it.

Q: "I just wanted to confirm that we are to use the "very unofficial" version of the rubric? As I haven't seen an announcement stating otherwise."
A: I would recommend thinking about the rubric in the following way. The rubric is offered as a favor. The version that is currently posted is meant to help you structure and organize your presentation. If you think about the rubric in this way, it doesn't matter whether it's the "final official version." On a related note, *please do not think of it as a checklist*. You can have everything from the rubric in your presentation but do poorly if the content is incorrect, poorly communicated, or not logically connected. On this last point, there has to be "connective tissue" that links together all of the pieces of the proposal. This means making sure there is a logical progression within and between sections of your presentation, and that your presentation is not a series of independent responses to the items on the rubric.