COM310-902

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Chapter 15

Making Oral Presentations



Preparing the presentation

Overview



Delivering the presentation



Answering questions after a presentation

Four Types of Oral Presentations

- Impromptu: Sudden request at a meeting.
- Extemporaneous: Planned but not scripted, allows for spontaneity.
- **Scripted:** Fully written out in advance, prioritizes clarity over naturalness.
- Memorized: No notes, best for short topics due to memory limitations.

Five Steps in Preparing Presentations

- 1. Analyzing the speaking situation
- 2. Organizing and developing the presentation
- 3. Preparing presentation graphics
- 4. Choosing effective language
- 5. Rehearsing the presentation

Analyzing the Speaking Situation



Audience: Knowledge, Reasons for listening, Language proficiency, Expectation



Purpose: Inform or persuade?



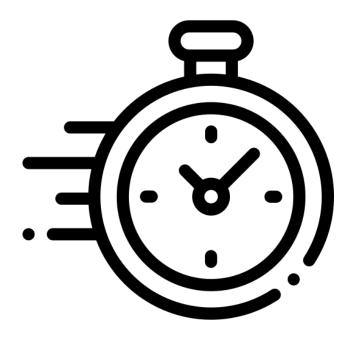
Time: How long do you have?



Setting: Technical setting of the place, etc..

Typical Time allotment in a 20miniute presentation

Task		Time (minutes)
Introduction		2
Body	First major point	4
	Second major point	4
	Third major point	4
Conclusion		2
Questions		4



Clear and Well-supported Claim

Visible

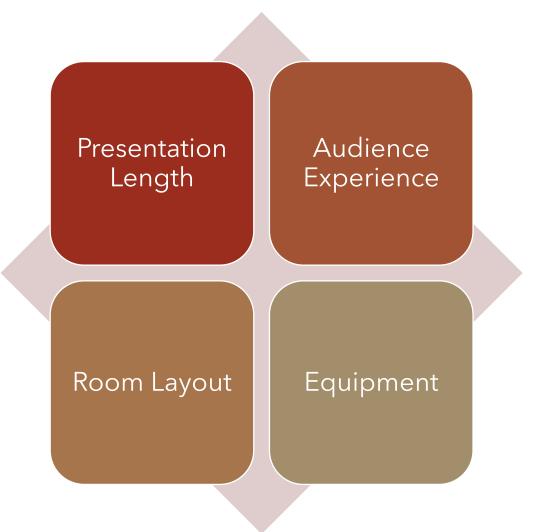
Readable

Simple

Correct

5 Features of Effective Slides

Graphic Considerations



Elements for Introduction



Yourself



Presentation title



Purpose



Main point



Overview

Language and Structure for Effective Presentations

1. Challenges of Oral Presentations:

- Listeners can't "re-read."
- You must maintain attention in real-time.

2. Importance of Language

- Use language to provide structure: Advance organizers, summaries, transitions.
- Use memorable language to engage (use concrete examples, cite facts and quotes).

Language and Structure for Effective Presentations: Organizational Elements

- 1. Advance Organizers: Guide for what's coming next, use in introduction and for main points.
- 2. Summaries: Recap major points, use in conclusion and throughout the presentation.
- **3. Transitions:** Signal shifts between points for clarity.

Delivering the Presentation







Releasing nervous energy



Using your voice effectively



Using your body effectively

- Volume
- Speed
- Pitch
- Articulation
- No meaningless fillers

- Eye contact
- Natural gestures
- Don't block the view.
- Control attention.

Presenting to All Audiences

- Hire translators and interpreters if necessary.
- Use graphics effectively to reinforce your points for nonnative speakers.
- Be aware that gestures can have culturally based meanings.

Guidelines for Concluding a Presentation

- 1. Announce that you are concluding.
- 2. Summarize the main points.
- 3. Look to the future.
- 4. Invite questions politely.

Handling Questions

- 1. Repeat or clarify questions for audience who don't hear the question.
- 2. Admit unknowns if you encounter the questions you don't know.
- **3. Redirect or defer** politely if you have already answered the question during the presentation.
- **4. Offer to discuss later** if a belligerent member of the audience rejects your response and insists on restating his or her original point.

Handling Questions

If an audience member asks a question to which you do not know the answer, admit it.

If you have some ideas about how to find out the answer, **share them**.

If the question is obviously important to the person who asked it, you might offer to meet later to discuss how you can provide a more complete response.