

# How to Create an Oral Research Presentation

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UCSB McNair Scholars 2011 Summer Program



# Purpose of an Oral Research Presentation

An Oral Research Presentation is meant to showcase your research findings.

In the academic community a well done oral research presentation should:

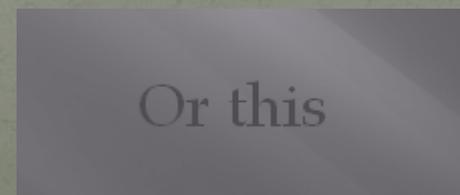
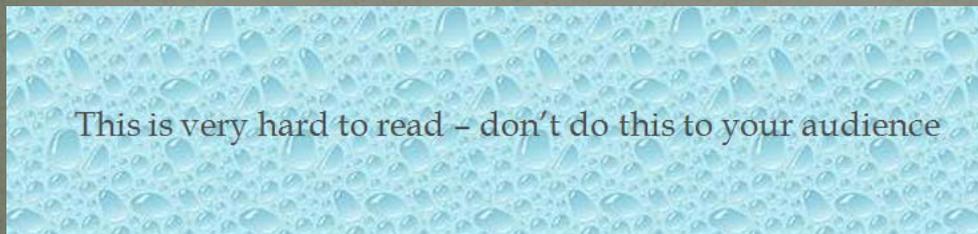
- communicate the importance of your research
- clearly state your finding and the analysis of those findings
- prompt others in the academic community to ask questions and give you valuable feedback that could further, and strengthen, your research

# Technical Aspects of a Presentation

## Background

- Use simple backgrounds that provide some visual interest
- Always use the same background throughout the presentation
- Try not to use backgrounds that are distracting or make it difficult to read the words

## Example:



# Technical Aspects of a Presentation

## Color

- Use a text color that contrasts with the background
- Use color for **emphasis**
- Keep colors simple; less is more
- Use colors sparingly
- Use colors to tie points together

# Technical Aspects of a Presentation

## Fonts

- Fonts should be standard and easy to read
  - Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri
- The title of the slide should be about 44-point
- The body of the slide should be about 22-point
- You do not want your font too small so that your audience has to strain to read it
- CAPITALIZE ONLY TO MAKE A POINT – NOT ALL THE TIME
- STAY AWAY FROM COMPLICATED FONTS
- Use one font style throughout

# Technical Aspects of a Presentation

## Slide Layout

- Avoid text heavy slides
  - Avoid full paragraphs unless quoting
- Create a slide for each main point because it
  - Keeps presentation focused
  - Helps the audience concentrate on each point
  - Prevents audience from reading ahead

# Components of an Oral Research Presentation

- Each research presentation, regardless of your field of study, should contain some common sections
- Be aware that your particular research project will dictate the exact sections you will have
  - Introduction
  - Background/Literature Review
  - Research Question(s)
  - Research Methods
  - Findings/Data
  - Discussion/Conclusion(s)
  - Future Research
  - References
  - Acknowledgements
  - Questions

# Title Slide

- Each presentation will have a title slide
- The title slide must contain the title of your project, which must be the same title you used for your abstract submission
- People will decide whether they want to attend your presentation based only on your title and abstract
- It must include your name, your faculty mentor's name and department, and the name and location of your institution

# Title Slide Examples

## Athletes and Self-Concept:

An Exploration of Role Distance Between Real and Performer Self-Concept

Richard A. Espinoza  
Faculty Advisor: Steve R. Smith, Ph.D.  
Dept. of Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology  
University of California, Santa Barbara

## The Division of Childcare Labor in Gay Male Partnerships

Nathaniel Scheidemen  
Dr. Beth Schneider, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Sociology  
University of California, Santa Barbara



# Introduction

## Humanities/Social Science

- In this section you want to inform your audience of all the relevant background information of your research project
- Each bullet point should be a concise summary of what you will tell the audience verbally

## Physical Science

- This is the section where you should explain why this research is important
- Give your audience the broader impact of your research so that they will have some context to put your scientific data into

# Background/Literature Review

## Humanities/Social Science

- This will be a brief literature review for your audience, where you discuss only the most relevant articles or texts that you used in your research
- In this section you would want to list the author(s) and a brief statement about what you gleaned from their work and how it helps aid your research
- If you are citing a text you might want to include an image of the book cover
- In some cases, an example would be historical texts, you may want to include an image of the author

# Background/Literature Review

## Physical Science

- This will be more of a background section, but you will cite your sources
- This section is where you start to discuss other studies that have been performed
- You want to convey what's been done and how your research is different or an improvement

Ex:

Fascaplysin selectively inhibits Cdk4 ( $IC_{50} = 0.55 \mu\text{M}$ ) and also suppresses the proliferation of leukemia cells L-1210 ( $ED_{50} = 0.2 \mu\text{m mL}^{-1}$ ).<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Garcia, Marcos, D.; Wilson, A. James; Emmerson, Daniel P. G.; Jenkins, Paul R. *Chem. Commun.* **2006**, 2586-2588.

2. Aubry, C.; Wilson, A. J.; Jenkins, P. R.; Mahale, S.; Chaudhuri, B.; Marechal, Jean-Didier; Sutcliffe, M. J. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* **2006**, *4*, 787-801.



# Research Question(s)

- State your research question – it should stand alone on this slide
- This section should not be fancy and will most likely only be one to two sentences
- The goal is to showcase your research question so that your audience can let it sink in for a moment

Example research question:

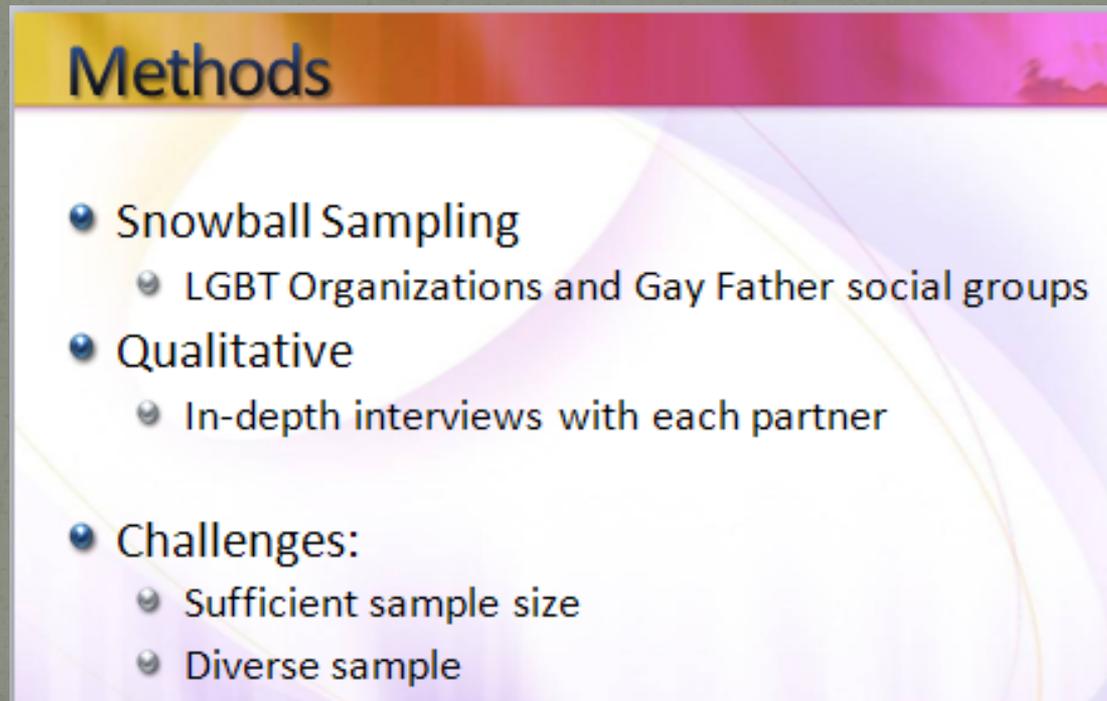
## Research Question

- What is the impact of social-economic structures and cultural trends on the intergenerational perceptions of marriage among African American women?

# Research Methods

In this section you should share with your audience how you went about collecting and analyzing your data

Example 1:



**Methods**

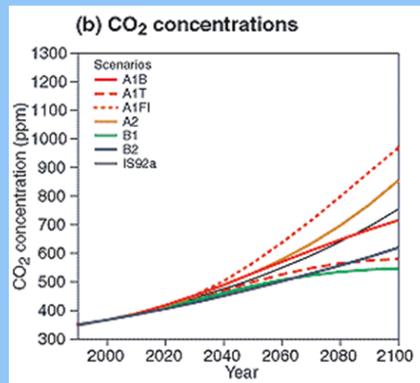
- Snowball Sampling
  - LGBT Organizations and Gay Father social groups
- Qualitative
  - In-depth interviews with each partner
- Challenges:
  - Sufficient sample size
  - Diverse sample

# Research Methods

## Example 2:

### Methods

Fertilization success and early development were examined



- Three water temperatures (14°C, 18.5°C, and 23°C)
- Three CO<sub>2</sub> levels (380ppm, 550ppm, 990ppm)

### Methods



#### Larval Buckets

- Fangué et al 2010

#### Water Quality

- Dickson et al 2007

# Findings/Data

- In this section you want to clearly organize and display your data and findings
- This is where graphs, charts and images are most helpful
- Let the data do the talking in this section and just explain the graphs, charts and images that you are presenting to your audience
- You will analyze and discuss this data in the next section

# Do's and Don'ts of Graphs

- Not every table and graph is good
- Do your best to display your data in the most clear, concise way possible
- Remember that your audience will only have a minute or less to view your table/graph

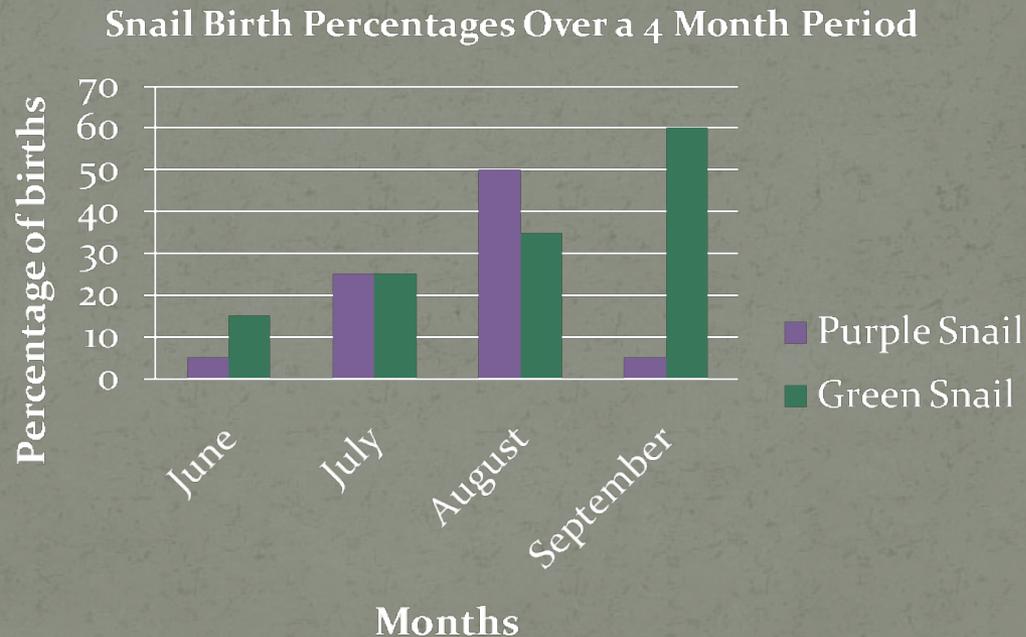
Examples:

	June	July	August	September
Purple Snails	5	25	50	5
Green Snails	15	25	35	60

Do you think this is a good table?

# Do's and Don'ts of Graphs

The following is a much better way to display the data on the previous slide:



What makes this graph so much better than the table on the previous slide?

# Discussion/Conclusion(s)

- This section is a concise summary of your main findings
- Ideally you should be able to state the answer to your research question that you initially posed in the beginning
  - If you have only begun to answer your research question tell the audience what you know thus far and what you plan to do next to fully answer that question
- This is also where you will analyze and discuss the answers you obtained from the data you showed on the previous slides
- Do not make this slide too overwhelming, but rather keep it to the main findings

# Future Research

Not all presentations will have this section, but at your stage of research you will most likely have future research goals.

- State your goals in a bulleted format
- Add a sentence about why you believe the research should go in this direction
- You may want to briefly mention how you plan to implement these research goals

# References

- In this section you *do not* want to include your entire reference list that is in your research paper
- It's best to include 3-5 key references
- Be sure your references are in the proper format (APA, ASA, ACS, MLA or Chicago style) for your field of study

# Acknowledgements

This section is used to thank the people, programs and funding agencies that allowed you to perform your research.

Be sure to thank:

- Your faculty mentor
- Any post-docs or graduate students that may have helped you
- The UCSB McNair Scholars Program
- And anyone else you may want to add

# Questions?

- It's great to include a final slide that simply says "Questions?" or "Any Questions?" in the center of the slide

If you DO NOT know the answer to a question:

- It is always a bad idea to "fake" an answer to a question
- Just say something like:

"I actually don't know the answer to that,  
but it's a great question and I will look  
into it."

- Follow-up with this person after your presentation so you can send them information on what you discover
- It's often a good idea to have some extra slides prepared at the end of your presentation to answer anticipated questions

Any Questions?