Creating your Research Proposal Presentation

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Overview

• Goals and components of the Module 3 Presentation

• Dividing up the presentation

• Delivering the presentation with your partner

• Questions to ask yourselves: organization, slide design, delivery
 Goals for your presentation

How can you make your proposal compelling?

• Convince audience that project is worth doing
• Convince audience that you can do it

• Assume that your audience comprises:
  • experts in your topic
  • intelligent non-experts with exposure to your field

Useful tips on creating funding proposals at

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Components of the presentation

- brief project overview
- sufficient background information for everyone to understand your proposal
- statement of the research problem and goals
- project details and methods
- predicted outcomes if everything goes according to plan and if nothing does
- needed resources to complete the work
- societal impact if all goes well
Dividing up the presentation: general principles

• Each partner should speak roughly the same amount of time

• Audiences will assume change in speakers corresponds to change in topic -- don’t confuse them

• Changing speakers can distract audience/slow the talk down -- keep shifts to a minimum

• How you choose to divide the talk depends on the shape of your presentation -- many different options!
Dividing up the presentation: Option 1 (Down the Middle)

**Speaker 1:**
- brief project overview
- sufficient background information for everyone to understand your proposal
- statement of the research problem and goals

**Speaker 2:**
- project details and methods
- predicted outcomes if everything goes according to plan and if nothing does
- needed resources to complete the work
- societal impact if all goes well

*division assumes that Part I is roughly as long as Part II*
Dividing up the presentation: Option 2 (The Sandwich)

**Speaker 1:**
- brief project overview
- sufficient background information for everyone to understand your proposal
- needed resources to complete the work
- societal impact if all goes well

**Speaker 2:**
- statement of the research problem and goals
- project details and method
- predicted outcomes if everything goes according to plan and if nothing does...

context=bread

experiment nuts & bolts = filling

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Dividing up the presentation: Option 3 (Back and Forth)

**Speaker 1:**
- brief project overview
- project details and methods
- predicted outcomes if everything goes according to plan and if nothing

**Speaker 2:**
- sufficient background information for everyone to understand your proposal
- statement of the research problem and goals
- needed resources to complete the work
- societal impact if all goes well
More options (for specific kinds of projects)

- Two discrete research questions OR
- Two discrete methods
  - each partner follows one strand
  - introductory and concluding material each presented by a single partner
- Other possibilities, depending on the particulars of your material

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Help focus the audience’s attention on the right speaker

- During overview, identify who will speak on what topic
- Review/Preview as you proceed through the talk
  - Articulate transitions explictly -- “hand off”
- Only one partner “onstage” at a time
  - If you’re not speaking, don’t hover nearby
- Do not interrupt each other
Rehearse as a team

• Note timing of each section and of talk as a whole
• Practice moving into speaking position at transition points
• Will you advance each other’s slides?
• Aim for similar speaking styles
  • don’t imitate each other, but match your formality levels
• Familiarize yourself with partner’s material
• Practice Q&A
Questions to ask yourselves about organization

• Does our talk fit together as a coherent whole?
• Are all sections of the talk adequately developed?
  • Do we have a focused, well-defined hypothesis?
  • Is it clear what is going to be done and how?
  • Have we realistically articulated the scope of the work?
• Have we omitted extraneous material?
• Will our project fire up an audience’s interest?
• What might make this proposal more convincing to a funding body?
Questions to ask yourselves about slide design

• Is everything on the slide readable?
• Are our slides a good balance of text and figures?
• Have we chosen clear, specific titles that express the main point of each slide?
• Is the design/format of our slides consistent, or were they obviously designed by different people?
Questions to ask yourselves about delivery

• Can we get through our whole presentation in 10 minutes?

• Do we know where to position ourselves, and how to coordinate our shifts smoothly?

• Do our speaking styles work well together?

• Are we making the transitions between topics and speakers clear to the audience?
Questions to ask us?