

Psychology Honors Program Final Talk

Introduction

The purpose of the final talk is to enhance your professional development. Your talk will aid you in two ways. First, the talk requires you to learn to condense specialized technical material into a short talk for a general audience. This is a difficult skill to master, and an important one to possess. Second, delivery of the talk will help improve your speaking skills. We are judged by how well we speak. The well-spoken have an advantage over their peers. In addition to fostering your own professional development, your talk will provide other students with a glimpse of the research process outside of their own laboratories, as well as aid the junior honor's students with developing their own projects.

Format

The talk will consist of an oral presentation with any necessary visual aids (primarily overheads) that will last a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes. Three to five minutes of question and answer time will be available after the talk, though questions posed during the talk for the sake of clarity will be allowed. The specific format follows:

Introduction: **a)** The title of the talk and your advisor, **b)** the general goal of the research **c)** a brief mention of the relevant literature **d)** specifically introduce the hypothesis

Procedure: **a)** *Generally* how the hypothesis was tested **b)** describe the participants **c)** explain any specialized materials (surveys, computer programs) **d)** introduce the general design (independent variables, dependent measures) **e)** describe what a typical subject experienced as a way of explaining the procedure

Results: **a)** As a bridge with the previous section, describe what data were collected after the procedure was complete **b)** *briefly* describe how the data were analyzed (ANOVA, multiple regression) **c)** explain what you would *expect* to find if your hypothesis was correct **d)** show graphs of the data (mandatory) **e)** was the hypothesis supported?

Discussion: **a)** Briefly restate (b) and (d) of the introduction **b)** state whether or not your hypothesis was supported **c)** if so, describe why this is important and what future research might be conducted; if not, speculate why you failed to support the initial hypothesis and what research might be conducted to confirm your speculations

Advice

Practice your talk. Then, practice it again, preferably in front of a friend or your advisor if they are willing to listen to it.