**UMW Speaking Center Presents**



Guidelines for APA Style Oral Presentation of Empirical Research

**ORAL PRESENTATION** (15 minutes)

* You are the expert in this area of research.
* Assume professional ethos.

**INTRODUCTION** (3 minutes)

* Introduce the importance of the general research area.
* Introduce the central theories and empirical findings in this area.
* Cite major research by name and date. Lead into why your study was needed.
* Introduce the specific research question(s) you’ll focus on.
* State specific hypotheses.

**METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS** (7 minutes)

* Briefly give information about the participants used in the study.
* Clearly explain your methodology—how were IVs operationally defined and how were DVs operationalized.
* Show summarized descriptive statistics in an appropriate table or figure.
* Discuss the test conducted and its results (e.g. F, dependent- t).
* Clearly state if your results did/did not support original predictions.

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS** (5 minutes)

* Place your findings back into the general literature mentioned in the introduction.
* Briefly discuss any major problems with your methodology.
* Discuss further directions for research.
* Answer questions.

**GENERAL POINTS**

* Make the introduction appealing—get the audience’s attention and interest with a hook statement.
* Use well prepared slides or aids to keep you on track. Keep the information on these visuals to a minimum
* Be enthusiastic and maintain your energy and voice projection throughout the presentation.
* Have a powerful, distinct ending to the presentation. Don’t trail off, make it memorable!

**CITING SOURCES IN A SPEECH**

* Ensure that you have properly acknowledged the author and place of publication/retrieval within the speech.
	+ Ex: “According to Dr. Dennis Nissim-Sabat in his December 1st lecture on dissociate disorder…”
* Vary your style of reference. Remember—this is an oral presentation that should contain a variety of word and phrasing choices.

**SUGGESTED SLIDES**

* Title
* Background- name, major theorists/researchers, dates
* Research question and hypotheses
* Methodology (research design and sample materials)
* Results/Findings
* Conclusion (brief mention of design flaws)
* Direction for future research

Compiled from a handout created by Dr. Beverly Chew at Fort Lewis College with additions by UMW Speaking Center consultants, 2009.