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.*