

RESEARCH PRESENTATION SKILLS

by

Dr Adlina Ariffin

Deputy Dean (Academic & Management System)

Centre for Postgraduate Studies, IIUM

Presentation Outline

- Information about the presentation that you need prior to the presentation day
- Information about the audience
- Information about yourself that you need to have
- Principles of effective research presentation

- During your postgraduate studies, the kinds of presentation you will do are:
 - Class presentation (depending on the mode that you take)
 - Defence of your research proposal
 - Viva voce

Information about the presentation that you need prior to the presentation day

Questions about the presentation

- What type of presentation am I supposed to do?
- What is the purpose of my presentation?
- How much time am I given?
- What must I include in my presentation?
- How is it graded / evaluated?
- Do I need audio visuals?
- Do I need elaborations?
- Will there be Q & A after my presentation?

Information about the audience

Who is the audience?

Background

What type of people are they? My friends? People I have never met? My supervisors?

Expectations

What will the audience expect from me?

Knowledge and experience

How much do they know about my topic?

What technical language and jargon don't they know?

Reactions

What questions might the audience ask?

What objections might they raise?

What interpersonal problems might you have to deal with, for example people who disagree with you?

Next,

Information about yourself that you need to have

Questions about yourself as a presenter

• What are my strengths? How can I use them?

• What are weaknesses? How can I overcome or minimize them?

Do I have any fears as a speaker?

Structuring
an effective
research presentation

The principles of an effective research presentation

- Appropriateness
- Enthusiasm
- Accuracy
- Credibility
- Clarity

Appropriateness

- Your presentation must follow the format given
- You must be able to provide the appropriate examples for elaboration
- You must use appropriate language
- You must dress appropriately

Enthusiasm

- You must show real interest in your topic
- Be lively and cheerful as it can be infectious

Accuracy, Credibility and Clarity

- You should use accurate words and grammar to deliver meaning
- You should be knowledgeable and well-versed in the topic presented
- You should present reliable and valid ideas and supports
- You should be precise and should avoid too many jargons

In conclusions

for a good research presentation,

You should

- be well-versed in the topic
- be very confident
- be fluent
- be enthusiastic about the subject
- be interesting
- be in tune with the audience
- be easily understood
- be in control
- try to keep the audience involved

References

• Raman, M. & Sharma, S. (2012). *Technical communication: Principles & practice.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

