

Oral Presentation:

The students give a 10 minute powerpoint presentation on their JIR to the faculty and students in the Department, which is followed by 5 minutes of discussion and questions. The presentation must have high quality illustrations of the results (must be readable by audience) that succinctly convey the major points of the independent work. Students are encouraged to consult with their Research Advisor to get help on the organization of research findings and in preparing the summary for the presentation. The students are also encouraged to give practice presentations to their friends or to their Research Advisor for comments on the presentation style and content.

All students are required to upload a pdf file of their presentation by midnight the night before the presentation. The undergraduate coordinator will download the pdf files the next morning and set them up on the departmental laptop for the presentations. ***Student who fail to upload the presentation in time will get an incomplete.***

Tips for Oral Presentation:

- Avoid the temptation to include too much material. Concentrate on getting your main points across (this is all your audience will remember after they listen to a half-day of presentations anyway). A good rule of thumb is 8–10 slides for a 10-minute talk, but this will vary (some overheads may require 2-3 minutes; others 20-30 seconds).
- Think about what you would like to say as you prepare your figures, and use your figures as a guide to help you through your talk. This will minimize the amount of rote memorization or “note cards” required. If you have to say a lot that is not directly related to the figure on the screen, your job will be more difficult. If you find yourself in this position, consider adding another figure or editing what you say.
- Make text legible from the back of the room! This includes axis labels! For an overhead transparency, this probably means at least a 14-point font (but check it out; the projector in room 155 is pretty close to the screen).
- Avoid an abundance of “text-only” slides. These put the audience in the position of having to decide whether to read them or to listen to you read them. If you have a few such slides, it is a good idea to state the points that appear on the screen in a different way.
- Present your advisor with an anticipated outline for your presentation. He/she has many years of experience in giving short talks, and probably has a good view of the “big picture” surrounding your work (hopefully by this point you do as well).
- Practice your talk beforehand. In a 10-minute talk there is little margin for “hemming” and “hawing”.
- A clear distinction should be made between the background material and the work the student has conducted (for the benefit of those not directly involved in advising).