

Preparing your research-based presentation for the conference

Guidelines and Tips

Below are some tips and guidelines for preparing your presentations. The tips will be especially useful for first time presenters but seasoned presenters will also find these reminders helpful.

Preparation Ahead of the Conference

- Each presenter will have about 15 minutes to make their presentation. As a rule of thumb, 5 minutes of speaking time equals 2-3 pages of typed material.
- Remember a paper delivered orally should be different in style from an article meant to be read in print. It is advisable to use your final paper as a source and prepare an outline from which you present your speech.
- The structure of an oral presentation needs careful thought. Bring out the direction the research or presentation has taken. Place more emphasis on the results and interpretation and avoid spending too much time on techniques. The first few minutes can be used to place the research in some historical and developmental context. Remember the critical times of your speech are the first two minutes and the final one minute.
- Develop an excellent introduction and an insightful and practical conclusion. Remember that sessions are on a tight schedule so plan to adhere to the time limits.
- Present some practical applications of your work. Attendees want to receive both practical applications and theoretical material when they attend a session.
- If you use PowerPoint slides in your presentation, be sure that material can be easily read by those sitting at the back of the room.
- It is advisable not to overcrowd your slides with no more than 6-7 words per line, and no more than 6-7 lines per page.
- To ensure an effective performance, practice your presentation before a small group of supportive colleagues and ask for frank comments.
- Be flexible in preparing your speech, for instance if you have prepared a PowerPoint presentation and the technology fails, have a back-up hard copy of your presentation (We hope this will not be the case).

Presenting at the Conference

- Arrive a few minutes early to meet with the session chair and other presenters. Make sure your presentation has been uploaded and that any audio-visual equipment you are using is working.

- When speaking assume the possibility of hiccups e.g. technology breakdown, so be flexible in preparing your presentation.
- Stay within the allotted time limit when making your presentation.
- Stop on time. Remember there are other speakers during this time slot, so be considerate of their time.
- As you speak, establish eye contact with the audience; vary your styles of presentation. Don't read handouts verbatim when talking. Simply refer to them, but allow participants to be actually involved in developing the outcome.
- Be enthusiastic as you present as your presentation will leave a first impression of your work. If it is positive, then their overall impression of you and your work is reinforced.
- Enjoy yourself as you present your paper!

Tip for Preparing Your Power Point Presentation

1. Use PowerPoint to prepare your presentation, other software formats (e.g. Prezi may be used as well).
2. Each presenter has about 15 minutes, so consider using 15 slides or less
3. The first slide should include: Presentation title, author names, institution etc
4. The middle slides should try to cover the following elements of your study or work:
 - Introduction/Background
 - Objectives or purpose(s) of the study/practice
 - Perspective or theoretical/conceptual framework
 - Methods & data sources
 - Results/Findings/Outcomes
 - Implications
 - Implications for practice: How can the findings help others (e.g., practitioners, educators, policy makers)?
 - Implications for research: Based on the results and/or limitations of this study, what should future studies in this area do?
 - Discussion
 - Identify the most interesting findings and provide an explanation/rationale.
 - Why did this study get the results? Is it similar to past research? Can theory explain the findings? Is there something about this data collection that made the results different?
 - Key references
 - Acknowledgments (as applicable)

Consent

By submitting an abstract and presentation to this conference, you are giving permission for your abstract & presentation to be made available on the internet and accessible to the general public.



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT UNIT
Contact: submissions@avu.org