

Major assignment 1: Oral Presentation

The first of two major assignments in this seminar is to give an oral presentation relating your own research to two or more published studies in your field. The 10 minute presentation will describe your thesis, and how it is similar to, different from, or in some way related to two or more other publications.

- What is the thesis statement or conclusion of your planned paper?
- How does the conclusion, the argument, or the data of previously published papers relate to your conclusion? HINT: The published papers should either support your conclusion *or* offer a counter-argument that you will argue against.
- How do the published papers support or challenge your work?
- How will your work support, challenge, or otherwise change how people understand the published papers?

Plan your presentation with an introduction, an argument in the main body of the speech, and a conclusion. The introduction should last about one minute. It should give general background to capture the audience's attention and help them understand your thesis. The conclusion should also last about 1-2 minutes. It should summarize the main points of your argument: how do the published studies relate to your paper?

You have only 10 minutes for your presentation, so you'll need to plan carefully and not include too much detail.

Prepare what you plan to say. Write notes to speak from, or script what you plan to say in a spoken-English style. On the day of the presentation, remember to look at the audience and smile even though you feel nervous. Remember, we are all on your side and want you to do a good job; try to relax knowing that you are among friends and colleagues.

This [short video](#) gives some advice on delivering the actual speech. [Mei-Writing also has courses](#) that teach more about presenting your research.

Please ask the instructor if you have any questions. Please discuss your plan for the presentation with the members of your study group.