

In the process of scholarly research and writing, authors often give short oral presentations to their colleagues and general audiences to communicate their research findings and solicit feedback. Scholars often find that the opportunity to present their work orally enables them to clarify their major arguments in a way that “revising on paper” does not.

As we end the second unit and you submit your revisions of essay #2, we will have a class session devoted to sharing our research findings through oral presentations. We can imagine ourselves as attending a conference on “The Influence and Role of Media in the Lives of Young People.” Each student will present his or her research for 5-10 minutes. I encourage you to bring a tape recorder so that you can listen to and reflect upon your talk after you present it on Tuesday.

In these presentations, we are interested in the larger questions that (a) engaged you with your subject (b) emerged from the interview analysis. Tell us what questions about TV and other media motivated you as a writer, some of the key findings of your interview (you won’t have time to go into every aspect of your essay), and the hypothesis that you’ve developed or the larger questions that you are asking at the end of your case study. Remember: keep your presentation engaging and open-ended.

Some tips for presenting:

- stand, use handouts or the board, if helpful;
- use a conversational but informed tone; speak slowly
- don’t read extensively from your paper;
  - many speakers find it best to use an outline that they can pass out to the class;
- state your main points clearly, then in the conclusion return to these points..
- -rehearse your presentation, using a tape recorder, if possible.