Giving Presentations and Proposal Talks
Preparing your presentation: The Details

- Proposal talks: ~ 5 mins, 5 min question period
- Presentations: 8-10 min, 5 min question period
- A laptop will be provided, but you can use your own laptop if you prefer
- Best thing to do is bring in your presentation on a USB key
Proposal Presentations
Marking Scheme

- Does the experiment build on previous research?   /1
- Does the experiment have a clear, specific research question and/or hypothesis?   /1
- Does the experiment have clearly defined independent and dependent variables?   /1
- Does the experiment attempt to control for all other variables and eliminate confounds?   /1
Presentations Marking Scheme

- **Introduction /5**
  - Provides effective overview of background literature
  - Provides convincing motivation for study

- **Results and Methods /5**
  - Clearly communicates results
  - Shows clear, illustrative graphs of results
Presentations Marking Scheme

Discussion  /5
- Provides a clear interpretation of results
- Discusses potential large implications of study
- Mentions limitations or potential future directions

Presentation Skills  /5
- Communicates clearly
- Maintains audience’s interest
- Slides are clear, visually appealing
Presentations

What do you want the audience to learn?

- Summary slide at beginning and end
  - Include the major points
  - Have a slide for each point in your talk
Key points to consider when putting together your presentation:

- Follow the ‘big story’
  - start with the big question
  - bring it to the specific question you examine
  - tell how your results inform the bigger question
- Be clear and communicative
  - Provide information in a clear and interesting way
  - don’t get off track with details that are unimportant
Preparing your presentation: Slides

When presenting graphs, tables, or images

- Make them as clear as possible
- Point out what you want the audience to notice
- Only display the necessary information
Preparing your presentation:

Slides

Proofread your slides

- Mistakes are distracting

- Do not clutter your slides or use run-on sentences that seem to ramble away and the audience spends the entire time trying to read your slide rather than listen to what you have say

- Make sure font is large enough to see
Delivering your presentation:

- Keep it to the point!
  - Interesting
  - Act like you are telling a story

- Avoid rushing through complicated or boring material
Delivering your presentation: Pacing

- Emphasize main points
  - Use voice and gestures
- Avoid getting off topic
- Remember to breathe
Delivering your presentation: Speaking

- Talk slowly and clearly
- Convince your audience that your talk is interesting
  - Sound interested yourself
- Avoid talking to the screen or blocking it
- Be confident and practiced
After the Presentation

- Have slides on hand that will address expected questions
- Don’t be defensive
- It is OK if you cannot answer a question
  - At least try though
Thank you!

Questions?