CS697-Week 06
Presenting research work: how to be a good communicator

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Outline

1. Tips on how to prepare for your talk
2. Tips on how to become a good public speaker
Preparing for the presentation

Now that you have an advisor, a research topic and have been working on some projects. Time to present your work!

It is important to give a good talk because it’s not enough to come up with a new idea. You need to communicate that idea to the community.
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Identify the audience
- Identify the purpose of your talk
- Structure your talk
- Make good slides
- Give a practice talk
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Identify the audience,

  Ideally you would like your audience to:
  - Be familiar with your work
  - Thoroughly understands
  - Be excited and eager to hear about the latest developments in your work
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Identify the audience,
  
  **The audience in real life:**
  
  - May have never heard of you
  - Have no background knowledge, related to your work
  - Have just had lunch and they would prefer to take a quick nap!
Your ultimate goal is to wake them up and make them glad they came!!
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Identify the purpose of your talks,
  - Present your work and maybe get some feedback
  - Make them interested in your research - paper
    - Don't tell the audience every single detail in your paper
    - Don't try to impress them
    - Do communicate the main ideas and give enough details
    - Don't give too much details, may confuse them!
    - Think about the one thing that the audience should remember after the speech is over!
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Structure your talk: make several distinct parts - think about it as the structure of a paper!
  - **Introduction:** the most important part of your presentation. It determines whether the audience will follow your talk or they would just wait for the talk to end
  - **Main body:** contains the meat of the presentation
  - **Conclusion:** your aim here is to round off the talk neatly. You should discuss the results briefly.
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

● Make good slides
  ○ Keep it simple
    ■ Don’t put too much text
    ■ Use pictures.
  ○ Don’t use vivid colours
  ○ Pay attention to the fonts
Preparing for the presentation

How would you prepare for a presentation?

- Have practice talks
  - Practice on your own
  - Practice in front of a small group of people - listen to their feedback
    - Remember: Your advisors are willing to help!
  - Videotape your talk - may seem a little awkward, but will help you understand how others see you
• Any other tips?

• Share your experience with us!
Presenting your work

Now that you have prepared for your presentation...
Presenting your work

Do you have fear of public speaking/talking in front of a big crowd?
- Care to share why?
- What would you do to overcome it?
- If you don’t have it, terrific!!! How would you help your friends who have it?
Presenting your work

Do you have fear of public speaking/talking in front of a big crowd?
❖ It’s okay to have it... We do too...
❖ Fake it til you make it.
❖ Practise is always a good solution.
Presenting your work

What are the do’s and don’ts while presenting (in front of a big crowd)?

- Tone, Volume, and Language,
- Body language,
- Eye contact, etc.
Presenting your work

What are the do’s and don’ts while presenting (in front of a big crowd)?

- **Tone, Volume, and Language**
  - Not too loud (or quiet),
  - Avoid filler words, etc.

- **Body language**
  - Don’t be a statue...
  - Show your energy and enthusiastic! :>

- **Eye contact**
  - Don’t just look at your crush, jeez... -_-
Presenting your work

What are the do’s and don’ts while presenting (in front of a big crowd)?

❖ Try not to go over your allotted time,
❖ Don’t wing your speech,
❖ Keep an open mind as things can always go wrong...
The next-to-last slide...

Key takeaways:
★ Practise makes perfect!!!
★ Be prepared for not only your speech, but also questions that you think people might ask.
★ Communicate the main ideas, don’t say too much.

“Talks” you can/will give: Reading groups, Seminars, Oral Exams :/ , etc.
The real next-to-last slide...

One more thing before you go...

Reference reading: Confession of a Public Speaker by Scott Berkun (Adam’s suggestion).
Thank you for joining the discussion today!