

UCSB McNair Scholars Program

# DELIVERING AN ORAL PRESENTATION AT A MCNAIR CONFERENCE



# CAPTURING YOUR AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION

- ✘ Think about your audience's attention span...
  - + Capture your audience's attention from the get-go
    - ✘ Exude interest and passion. If you look bored, your audience will become bored too.
    - ✘ Reward your audience's attention with an interesting and engaging presentation
    - ✘ Start with your main point
      - ★ Make this clear and concise

# TALK TO YOUR AUDIENCE

---

- ✘ Engage your audience
  - + Make eye contact
    - ✘ Rehearse and be well versed in your material
      - ✘ Although having an “emergency script” might be helpful, do not rely on it.
      - ✘ Talk naturally and directly face your audience



# LANGUAGE

---

- ✘ Think about your audience...
  - + Use jargon sparingly
    - ✘ When you do, define!
  - + Reiterate how each section pertains to the main point
  - + Insure that you can pronounce each word properly

# USING YOUR VOICE

---

- ✘ Speak at an audible level
- ✘ Speak slowly
- ✘ Draw attention to key notes
- ✘ Fluctuate your voice
- ✘ Use a higher pitch for new points
- ✘ Don't be afraid of silences and pauses!!

# USING YOUR BODY

---

- ✘ Maintain an upright and comfortable posture
- ✘ Do not look at the ground and keep your head up
- ✘ Make eye contact with *individuals*
- ✘ Use *open* body language
- ✘ Utilize your hands and facial expressions
  - + (within moderation)



# INTERACT

---

- ✘ Pay attention to your audience!
  - + Are they following you? Are they bored? Are they interested?
- ✘ Check-in!

# NERVOUSNESS IS NATURAL

---

- ✘ Take a deep breath
- ✘ Smile and maintain a friendly demeanor
- ✘ Talk slower, not faster
- ✘ Be well-prepared so that you can ad-lib



# EXAMPLE

---

- × Presentation example (1:00-2:57)

# ROLE PLAY!

---

# THE TAKE AWAY...

---

Giving an oral presentation is a performance art. It does not matter how interesting your data is---you need to sell it. Your research is only as interesting as you make it appear to be!!

