

## **Contemporary Problems Expectations for Oral Presentations**

Your presentations should not be a mere re-description of the content of the article. Most articles are structured around a small number of themes or research questions: make sure that these themes are not buried in an avalanche of details about methodology and data. In fact, your presentation should highlight the key themes and research questions; describe the methods and results in a way that clarifies to the audience how the experiments address the key themes.

When creating your presentation, keep in mind that your audience contains both experts and non-experts. You face the task of providing enough information to help the non-experts understand your key points, without boring the experts. When thinking about how to accomplish this difficult task, keep in mind that a picture or diagram often conveys information more quickly and easily than lots of texts or words. Learning how to communicate effectively to a diverse audience is one of the most important skills you will master as a graduate student.

A minor but important issue: make sure your visual materials are visible to your audience. A slide containing 500 words in 8-point font will not convey much information to people in the back of the room.

Finally, come to class prepared to answer questions and to lead a discussion about the article. In other words, think about the kinds of questions that students might ask and how you might answer them. Also, think about the kinds of issues or themes or questions that do not have any obvious answers, but which may generate discussion.

**You are required to meet with the module leader several days prior to delivering your presentation. At this meeting, be prepared to give an outline of your presentation, as well as discuss any questions you may have regarding the article.**