Guidelines for Seminar Presentations

You will have a class period (~ 45 min) for your presentation, but this will include question and discussion time during and after the presentation. This means that the presentation would take about 25 min if you were to give it straight through (i.e., without interruptions or discussion afterwards). One person in the group should take on the role of Devil's Advocate, look for the weaknesses or limitations of the work. If you don't take this role yourselves, someone in the audience will!

The presentation should follow the logical progression of the paper. This usually consists of introduction, methods, results, and discussion. (Note that papers from the journals *Science, Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and *Current Biology* put all or part of the methods at the end of the paper; in these cases, follow the conventional order rather than their order.) Note also that these and several other journals now routinely put 'supplementary material' for the paper on their website; you may need to look at this material to fully understand the paper.

Each member of the group should participate equally in the presentation.

Presentation recommendations:

1. The goal of your presentation is to help us understand the goals of the paper, where it fits with other papers on the topic, and the authors' conclusions.
2. You want to encourage questions and discussion. Interruptions are a good thing, not a bad thing! (Even if they do keep you up in front of the class for longer than you may want!)
3. Limit your presentation to 20 slides (this does not include your title slide or any pure image slide). If you can keep it under 15 slides, that would be even better.
4. Word limit = 1500 words. (Note: this pertains only to the presentation, not notes if you use them, but unfortunately their word counter counts both.) Closer to 1000 words is even better. In the latest version of ppt, to count the number of words, do the following:
    a. Click the File tab, and then in the leftmost pane, click Info.
    b. At the bottom of the rightmost pane, click Show All Properties. The Words property counts all the text on slides and notes pages.
5. Avoid putting too many words on a slide. You achieve this by using font sizes of 24-point or higher, and using the material on the slide as a reminder of what you want to say, rather than literally everything you intend to say.
6. Any font type is fine (this is Times New Roman) but whatever you use, be consistent: stick to one font type
7. Add photos of animal or field/experiment setting if you can. There is no limit on images, but include just images that help with the presentation
8. Leave out material that is not essential for understanding the main points of the study/paper.
9. The greatest emphasis should be on the Results – be sure to include all relevant data figures in your talk. If you can't get them off the journal website (see point 7 below, and last section of this document) you can extracted them from the pdf with the 'snapshot' tool in Adobe Acrobat Reader (but magnify to at least 200% before extracting the figure to get better resolution). You may have to re-type or extract info from tables; big tables can be illegible when pasted into a ppt.
10. When possible download tables, figures, videos from journal website.

Your motto: Less is more!

Remember: All research papers will be covered on exams. Therefore the presenters should try to help their fellow students understand this material and the audience should be equally motivated to master the material, so attending and asking good questions are in everyone's interest.

Mechanics

Best: (1) make your ppt presentation in pc (not Mac) format, bring it to class on a memory stick (or email it to me or yourself), and use the classroom computer (a pc). If you really want to do your presentation on a Mac (ppt or keynote), then you probably should bring your Mac laptop (and appropriate adaptor!) to the classroom (and if you do it in keynote, please convert to a ppt to distribute to the class). Give the presentation to me before or after the class presentation (best is to just download it on to the computer and let me take it from there, or to email it to me). Remember, we are posting these presentations as study aids for the exam! Full credit requires you getting the presentation to me in a timely fashion.

Some journals put additional information from article on their internet site

This info can include photos or videos. Also, in the journal's 'full-text' version of the paper on their website, you will usually find downloadable versions of the article's figures and tables (either ppts, or images that can be pasted into your ppt). So even if you have the pdf of the article (I will usually have posted one), you should visit the journal website to get this stuff for your presentation. For all of these journals but one, you need to access the journal via the UW library electronic journal http://www.lib.washington.edu/types/ejournals/ (the exceptions are *PloS Biology* and *PloS One* which are 'open-source' journals – you can access them directly).

Science http://www.sciencemag.org/

Nature http://www.nature.com/nature/archive/index.html

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) http://www.pnas.org/content/by/year

Proceedings of the Royal Society B (London) http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/by/year

Current Biology http://www.cell.com/current-biology/archive

Biology Letters http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/

PloS Biology http://www.plosbiology.org/

PloS One http://www.plosone.org

Animal Behaviour http://www.sciencedirect.com.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/science/journal/00033472