PSY 502 Guidelines for Proposal Presentation

Presentations should 25 minutes in length, including time for questions. Please plan to present formally for approximately 15-20 minutes, allowing approximately 5-10 minutes for questions. Clearly state your research question and your hypothesis at the beginning. Presentations should follow this general organization:

1. Introduce your Topic
2. Briefly review most pertinent background research, which should be very focused to lead to your hypothesis
3. Identify gaps in the literature that exist
4. Identify the aims of your study and how you will attempt to fill gaps in knowledge
5. Explain your particular hypotheses – making it clear how each hypothesis will be tested with your design
6. Research Strategy – true experiment, quasi or non-experiment? correlational, descriptive? Archival?
7. Your experimental Design: how many groups, between or within subjects? IVs and DVs (or predictors and criterion variables), controls
8. Your Methods:
   1. Participants – be very clear about demographics, restrictions, where and how recruited, how compensated etc.
   2. Materials – describe all measures and stimuli fully
      1. testing environment,

c. Procedures – what exactly will happen to the participants in the course of the experiment (explain the rationale behind each procedural decision), debriefing methods etc.

d. Plan for Statistical Analyses

You should spend the majority of the time focused on your design and methods.

Be concise – focus on the most important points – be organized and articulate! But try also to be relaxed and natural and engage the class in discussion if possible.

It is advised that you use PowerPoint – bring your presentation on memory stick (USB) and be ready to load it on to the computer before class begins. Providing handouts is also optional but you may want to provide examples of questionnaires or stimuli.

You will be graded on both content and style, including pace of presentation, speech volume, interest etc. A good presenter conveys enthusiasm about his/her own topic. Please contribute by asking questions of the other presenters! It is our job as the audience to contemplate potential issues with the study design – (feasibility or rationale), so be prepared to respond to critical questions. Be sure to be open to feedback and not be defensive in defending your choices. You will each be asked to submit feedback on each other’s presentations so that the feedback can be used to strengthen the written proposal before the deadline (Dec. 1). Please type up your comments and email them to me by the day after the presentation. Your feedback will be evaluated as part of your participation grade.