Research Presentations Workshop
The Horror of the Presentation

- Secret Footage
- Secret Footage (DVD)

- Let’s Tell a Joke...

- Horror Stories from the Past
  - Think back to the last presentation or public speaking engagement you were involved with. What made it difficult, and how did you cope?
Why do we present our research?

- Excite the academic community of students and faculty with current findings

- Share an idea outside the research group and encourage collaboration

- Practice giving these presentations improves your own public speaking and preparation skills – which is the experience YOU WILL need for life. 😊
Why is your topic important?

- Explain background at ECE 110 level
  - What motivates your field of research
  - Why does the world need your results?

- Technical clarity is a necessity
  - Analogies are helpful but use simple language

- You should be prepared to talk in detail about:
  - The current problems being tackled
  - Your interesting problem-solving experiences
  - The results of your work
  - How do your results apply to the real world? How do they compare to other solutions?
The Presentation (Before)

- The presentation **starts well before the day of**:
  - Identify and analyze your audience: A big part of targeting groups is to put a specific, and unique touch on your presentation. Ask yourself, what will this particular group understand and how can you catch its interest?
  - Audience typically mostly undergraduates, but graduate students and professors also attend.

- **Repeat** 2-3 take-away key points:
  - Say/show once in beginning, in middle, and in end
  - Research motivation, Value of your results

- Determine the best representation of your ideas:
  - Where do figures explain key points most effectively? What level of detail would your audience benefit most from?
  - Each slide should have a specific purpose
Presentation Preparation

- Make a picture.
  - A picture is worth a 1000 words
  - People want to see your actual work

- Label all plots and equations with large text

- Practice makes perfect.
  - Group meetings, mentor-mentee meetings
  - Rehearse presentation with someone or by yourself

- Identifying further investigations...
The Presentation (During)

- Arrive comfortable and prepared:
  - Arrive on time, well dressed, and ready to present
  - For group presentations, know who is presenting what

- Make it memorable
  - Note your audience’s demographic, and interact as necessary
  - Use visual examples; avoid expletives

- Stay within the time limit
  - 10 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for questions
  - Some detail may have to be cut out
The Presentation (After)

- Entertain all questions and don’t argue with the questioner. Repeat the question so everyone hears it.

- The question and answer session is your last chance to teach and learn from your audience.

- Acknowledge your mentor and advisor, and anyone else who helped you along the way.

- Make sure you finish within the allotted time and thank the audience.
Acknowledgements

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Follow-up Presentations

- ECE Undergraduate Research Symposium (next Wednesday)
- PURE Archive contains past presentations
- You are welcome to share examples; interested graduate students?
- Find this presentation on PURE website; feedback and future workshop volunteers greatly appreciated