“Speak the Speech, I Pray You”

Working on Oral Presentations at the Writing Center

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Goals for the Presentation

You will:

- Understand the components of an effective presentation
- Practice giving feedback on oral assignments
- Leave fully prepared to engage in oral consultations
Clarity of Argument

- Concerns common to written assignments
- Transition from written to oral
- Guiding the audience
Nonverbal Communication

- Make eye contact without staring
- Use natural gestures
- Be conscious of your hand motions
- Watch your stance and position
- Everything in moderation
Clarity of Speech

- Be aware of your pacing
- Speak slowly, calmly, and confidently
- Practice, practice, practice
- Familiarize yourself with surroundings
Script vs Notecards vs Memorization

- Know what you need
- Know what you want to communicate
- Know how things connect
- Know key phrases/specific cues
- Prepare, but leave room for fluidity/improvisation
Improvisation/Adaptation

- Getting back on track
- Unforeseen events
- Practice variation
- Practice to audience
Visual Aids

very presentation

much visuals

wow

such conference
Visual Aids

- **Win-win-win:**
  - Prompt for speaker
  - Break up the monotony of text-only slides
  - Clarify and emphasize your main points

- Use a variety of images, colors and font sizes to enliven the presentation (*but not too many!*)

*Avoid cheesiness!*
Activity

- Plan a 1-2 minute presentation on how to address these topics in a writing consultation.
- Reconvene in 10 minutes!

- Clarity of Argument
- Nonverbal Communication
- Clarity of Speech
- Script vs. Notecards vs. Memorization
- Improvisation/Adaptation
- Visual Aids
Presentations
Reflection Questions

- How does this feedback compare to working with written assignments?
- What helpful insights did you gain by being a presenter?
- What types of feedback worked well?
- How can you take this into your own Writing Center?