

Distinguished Scholars Program

Most students in the program will present by using a slide show. This is a great tool for each presentation as it can be used as a guide, an anchor, or even an outline for the presentation. This all depends on each individual project and what is being presented.

Tips for using the slideshow to make a great presentation:

- Sketch out what each slide will be about. Some students like to do this on paper, others can put notes right into the slides themselves.
- Be sure the information is in an order that makes sense. Is it sequential? In order of importance? Cause and effect?
- Is there a hook or grabber that gets your audience's attention? Even a simple question to the audience is a great hook. Humor can be quite effective! Maybe a video or a compelling statement would work.
- A slide at the beginning that explains the inspiration for the project -- a great way to establish the student's enthusiasm and accountability with the project.
- A slide with a type of "Table of Contents" will tell the audience what they are about to see, what you will present, and walk them through. This gives them something to look forward to, especially if a "surprise" is in store. The audience will have an expectation, and this slide will build anticipation. It does not need to look like an outline or a table of content—it can be done creatively with shapes, in chart form, or like a diagram.
- Have a few points within the presentation that has the audience interacting. Use humor to offer a laugh. Ask a question and listen to the answer. Ask a follow up question. Pass something around. Have the audience get up to look at a poster or display and answer questions or respond to comments. Have the audience try or use the product if it is possible to do so.
- Are transitions between slides smooth or awkward? How can they be improved? Perhaps there is a dramatic transition between each subtitle.
- A reflection slide is very important. What has this experience meant to you? Have you grown as a person? What is the result of doing this project?
- Be sure to offer thanks to anyone who was involved in helping make this project a success. Mr. Valle should be on this list along with the mentor, people who were interviewed or offered professional experience in some way, and anyone who helped with the project (Mrs. Grablutz comes to mind for several projects with her help in getting emails out and offering to be a go-to person for public interaction).

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Final Things to think about before “The Big Day” ...

1. **DRESS: How will I dress?** You want to make sure to look “professional” – as a true “Distinguished Scholar”! Your appearance should match both the distinguished nature of your project, and the occasion itself. No track pants, sweatshirts, ripped clothes. Wear something that makes you feel special. You will be sure to impress without even saying a word! 😊
2. **GREETING: What do I say first?** You will need to make sure to make eye-contact with each person in your audience. You will want to say good morning or good afternoon to everyone. Maintaining eye-contact will be important through-out your presentation. It’s a great trick to help connect you to your audience ... use it! 😊
3. **HOOK OR GRABBER: How will you get your audience interested at the beginning?** This is essential in any speech. Will you ask the audience a thoughtful question? Will you make an interesting statement or observation? Will you pass around an fascinating object? Show a unique picture? Be sure to connect your hook to your introduction slide in a smooth or seamless way.
4. **INTRODUCTION: How will I introduce my project?** You will want to prepare a few comments, maybe on an index card or on a sheet of paper, in order to state:
 - ✓ The title of your project
 - ✓ Why you chose it
 - ✓ A very brief overview of what you will be presenting (a video about ... or a presentation on ... a pamphlet telling ...)
5. **TRANSITIONS: How will move between one part of my presentation and another?** You will want to take a few moments to think about when you want to “walk away” from your main presentation to show a 2nd part of your project. For example, if you have a poster in addition to a power-point slideshow, when will you pause the slides, etc.
6. **MATERIALS: What do I need to bring, other than the actual project?** Think about whether or not you will need anything else so you can do your very best job during the presentation. Do I need a podium? Extra chairs? A little table? A display easel? Speakers? A clicker? Did I make copies of any hand-outs I would like my audience to have? If your parent is bringing-in something for you, make sure to coordinate that ahead of time, so everything’s ready to go on time on your big day.
7. **CONCLUSION: How will I end my presentation? What should I say?** You will want to write down a few very brief notes on what you’d like to say. You should include:
 - ✓ a reference (not reading them) to your sources (This is your works cited slide)
 - ✓ thanking all the people that have helped or made this opportunity possible (This can be, but does not have to be a slide)
 - ✓ a comment or two about what this experience has meant to you, or how you have grown as a person, as a result.
 - ✓ Ask if anyone has QUESTIONS !!!

This is brief, but very important. You may even want to shake the hands of the people there (maybe a hug for your parents!). 😊 GOOD LUCK!!!