

Overview of Powerpoint Presentations of Thesis Projects

Basic Guidelines:

- You should practice beforehand to make sure that you can complete the presentation in the allotted time.
- No more than 15 slides.
- No font size smaller than 28-point, and try to use size 32 or greater.
- Use bullet points and short phrases, not full sentences that have been cut from the text of your thesis.
- Don't put periods at the end of every line since these are not full sentences.
- Use 1 slide for Background/Literature review, 1 slide for Problem Statement/Rationale, 3 slides for Methodology, 4 or 5 slides for Results, 2-3 slides for Discussion/Conclusions.
- Do not put new results (that you did not discuss in the Results Section) into the Discussion Section.
- To cite references in the slides, the most professional way is to insert a superscript and a number in the body of the slide, and then to insert a text box that briefly lists the first author, abbreviated journal name, and year.
- When you present, stand up and speak with a loud voice. Summarize slides and don't go into too much detail. For tables and figures, you should not mention every piece of data but only the 2-3 most important things.
- Don't include very large tables in your powerpoint slides. Either make smaller tables to represent the same data or just present the data in text form.
- **Practice, practice, practice with others before your presentation to make sure that you can confidently present your study and can answer questions.**

Slide 1: Introduction slide with title, name, supervisors

Slide 2: Literature Review. Usually you do NOT need to discuss general information about a disease. Focus your background and literature review very specifically on the research question and objectives of your study. Show what is already known about these question/objectives.

Slide 3: Problem Statement/Rationale (including the "Research Question") – This slide should summarize the exact clinical problem that has motivated your research question. In the presentation, you will say, "Because of this problem that I observed, I came up with the following question." The final bullet should be the research question.

Slide 4: Study Objectives (on only one slide; can just list specific objectives) – State that, "In order to answer this research questions we designed a study with the following objectives."

Slide 5: Methodology (Slide 1 of 2 for Methodology)

-Study Design

-Population: include the inclusion/exclusion criteria (very short)

-Sample Size: list the way it was calculated and then n=XXX

Slide 6: Methodology (Slide 2 of 2 for Methodology)

-Recruitment and Procedures (mention lab tests done but briefly)

-Data Analysis: usually sufficient to say data was analyzed using STATA version XX

Slide 7: Table 1 (Demographic / Baseline characteristics) – or summary of most important baseline characteristics in bullet points

Slide 8: Table 2 (Summary of your main outcomes, if you have one) – or summary of most important outcomes in bullet points

Slide 9: Table 3 (Predictors of the outcome) – or summary of the statistically significant predictors in bullet points. Focus on the factors that were significant in the multivariable analysis

Slides 10: Either 1-2 additional figures, or text to describe of results: choose the tables/figures that answer your objectives. By the end of slides 6-10 you should have provided the data that answers each one of your objectives.

Slides 11-13: Discussion / Conclusions – This section should be numbered 1), 2), 3)... with 1 conclusion that responds to each of your objectives. After each of the conclusions, you can have a few brief bullet points of discussion. Each conclusion / discussion point should be less than 1 slide. You should be able to fit all of your conclusions / discussion on 3 slides.

Slide 14: Limitations – Clearly and specifically state any study limitations that made it difficult for you to meet your objectives.

Slide 15: Recommendations: You should have 1 recommendation to respond to each objective. Your recommendations should be derived from your conclusion for each objective. Your recommendations should be specific, not general. Your recommendations should stay how policies or practices should change based on the specific conclusions of your study. Remember that the goal of research is ACTION. What should be done to improve population health and patient care based on the results of your study?!