

Judging Criteria for 2014 AIMS@JCU Student Seminar Day

Seminar

12 minute presentation; 3 minutes question time

Student talks should be kept to 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions. Student seminar talks will be judged based on the following components: The Quality of the abstract, Statement of hypotheses (introduction and statement of hypothesis), Clear Objectives, Methodology, Importance of Subject, Innovation and originality, General quality of presentation (grammar, flow, visual appeal of slides, clarity of speech), and the presenter's handling of questions.

Quality of the abstract

Student abstracts should be kept to 250 words and should be formatted as a scientific abstract for a journal article or scientific conference. Abstracts should be well written, indicate the scientific merit of the research presented (quality of science presented and leading edge of field). Usually, abstracts begin with a clear statement of an issue and end with a substantive conclusion.

Statement of hypotheses

This component is based on the introductory portion of the talk. This section of the talk sets up the context of the work and gives a statement of the hypothesis. This component will be scored based on whether the rationale is well explained and the question or hypothesis is clearly stated.

Clear Objectives

The presentation will be judged on whether the objectives of the work are clearly stated.

Clear Methodology

This judging component is to assess both the methodology of the work as well as the results presented. This component will be assessed on whether the methods and analyses used were appropriate (with regards to results presented).

Importance of Subject

This is to judge whether the speaker clearly expresses the importance of the work both in terms of the particular field and broader scientific context.

Innovation and originality

This is to assess the originality of the research and/or methodology.

General Quality of Presentation

This portion is to assess the general quality of the presentation visually (grammar, spelling, overall visual appeal of slides) and speaking quality of the

presenter (pronunciation, ability to communicate ideas, ability to answer questions clearly). This section will be judged based on: quality of speaker, quality of slides (grammar, spelling, visual appeal, organization of talk), and speaker skills in answering questions.

Speed-talk

3 minute presentation; 1 question

The required format and judging guidelines for the 3 minute speed-talks will follow those of the national 3MT competition with which most students would already be familiar, with the addition of a 100 word abstract. Students preparing a talk for this section of seminar day, are strongly encouraged to also enter their talk in JCU's 3MT competition.

The 100 word abstract should be an extended title of the presentation, which indicates the importance and context of the research and its outcomes.

The presentation should follow the following format:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

Judging guidelines are as follows:

Comprehension & Content

- Was the abstract well written, and did it capture the importance and context of the research that was presented?
- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?

- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

Engagement & Communication

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialise or generalise their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Poster

- A clear and concise abstract (max 250 words) as per abstract guidelines
- Well planned, laid out & organized
- Clear and easy to read, with good use of aesthetics and colours and without excessive text
- Quality charts & images
- Made good use of literature
- Thoroughly explained visual materials, charts/graphs, etc
- An effective introduction to the research and key outcomes which makes the reader want to find out more

Photography

- Is the image in focus?
- Is the image well composed?
- Is the image interesting/eye catching?
- Does the caption capture the essence of the image?
- Please send the highest resolution image possible as these will be printed