

# Present Your Research



## **Step 7: Present your research to the class.**

There are a several ways to do this. Your teacher may ask you to use one (or more) of the following ways to present. If you worked with someone else, you can present together.

- ✓ Oral Presentation
- ✓ Hand-out
- ✓ Poster
- ✓ *Other:* Song / Slide show / Powerpoint
- Mock newspaper

## **Present Your Research—Oral Presentation**

- An old saying goes: "Tell 'em what you're going to tell 'em, then tell it to 'em, then tell 'em what you told 'em." What that means is that you should say in the beginning what your research will be about, then present your research, and in the end summarize your findings.
- Practice in front of a mirror, at home. Use a tape recorder and listen to yourself.
- When you give an oral presentation in front of the class, you are like an actor on stage. Dress appropriately. Look your audience in the eye.
- Even if you feel nervous, appear calm. Just lowering your shoulders can help. Face the classroom.
- Speak slowly and enunciate clearly. Speaking to the person at the back of the classroom can help. Try to vary the tone of your voice.
- In an oral presentation, it's especially important to leave your listeners satisfied. End with a conclusion that's interesting or gives a punch line.

# Present Your Research—Handout

## Suggested order for a handout:

- Title page. Give your handout a title. Make the title
  - attractive on the page. List the name or names
  - of the students who did the research.
  
- Opening. Remember, make it catchy! The first time someone looks at the first paragraph of your handout, they're paying the most attention to it. Isn't that how you read things yourself? When the opening is
  - catchy, don't you read on and if it's not, don't you
  - skim the rest? Other readers are the same way.
  - Be sure your opening is appealing!
  
- Your opening should lead directly to the facts you want to present.
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- Facts. Present the facts in your research. You can
  - use full sentences or summarize with a bulleted
  - list. A bulleted list looks like this:
    - first fact
    - second fact
    - third fact, etc.
  - Note*: mention the resources you used in your
  - research.
  
- Illustrations help the reader picture what you are describing. Draw your own, or use pictures you can cut out or copy from a book, or print from the Internet, if that's allowed. Note the source at the bottom or side of an illustration found from a book or web site.
  
- Conclusion. Be sure the conclusion is linked to your
  - opening. It should follow from the data you
  - presented. Try to make it punchy if you can!
  
- Be ready to answer questions other students may ask.

# Present Your Research—Poster

## **Planning the poster:**

- ✓ Leave enough "white space" around the poster—that means blank space with nothing written on it. Believe it or not, it's easier for a viewer to read your poster if about a third of it is "white space."
- ✓ Choose the main findings of your research for your poster. However, do keep other findings handy so you can refer to your notes if you are asked questions. Index cards work well for notes.
- ✓ The title should be large enough to see from about ten feet back. Test it!
- ✓ It's good to use illustrations if a viewer can see the illustration from about ten feet back. *Tip:* Pictures with thick, black lines are easier to see than pictures that look "gray" and have little contrast.
- ✓ Write everything in pencil first. Make sure you can fit everything you want and that you've left enough white space. Double-check for spelling errors and other mistakes. When you're sure the poster is just how you want it to be, apply the permanent markers.

## **Presenting the poster:**

- ✓ Before you present, prepare index cards of your important facts. This will help you if you are asked a question. Remember to read everything on your poster one last time so it's all fresh in your mind.
- ✓ When it's your turn, stand by your poster and announce the topic of your research. You might say, "I did my report on -----." Point to the most important point first and explain each area of interest. Try to look at the poster as little as you can so your audience can see your whole face.
- ✓ Talk without using ANY "um"s or "like"s. It's not easy!

## **Other Creative Presentation Ideas:**

*If your teacher approves, you may also present your research with a song, slide show, power point presentation, newspaper with your findings highlighted as "news," a skit, riddles for the class to guess, or in another creative way.*