

Rubric for research proposal oral presentation in 20.109

The *idea*, *details/methods*, and *outcomes* categories define the core of the talk.

Category	Elements of a strong presentation	Weight (%)
Knowledge and explanation of subject matter:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relates proposal to topics covered in 20.109 when appropriate sufficiently explains concepts/ methods/etc. <i>not</i> covered in 20.109 	75
Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the what, why, and how (<i>are you going to do it</i>) of the idea are each clear and compelling the project scope is reasonable exhibits novelty/creativity 	(20)
Overview and Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear and concise description of the social and scientific context (and/or central question and significance) sufficient for intelligent non-experts to understand the proposal describes/credits relevant prior work 	(10)
Problem and Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> well-defined hypothesis and goals (specific research aims) 	(5)
Details/Methods/ Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> staged roadmap for investigation and/or helpful schematics as you go the experiments address the central question and include good controls methods needed to understand the predicted outcomes are explained, without unnecessary detail show sample data if experiment works (summarize in tabular form, make mock graphs, show published images from similar work, etc.) describe alternate assays, questions, and/or information still gained if experiment does not work 	(25)
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider specialized resources needed (e.g., plasmids, cell lines, access to large/costly equipment) detail is good, but not needed for every resource; nor is detailed budget info. required 	(3)
Impact and Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reiterate central question and its significance to science and society 	(5)
Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answers that convey understanding when you lack knowledge, tell how you would approach the question based on what you know 	(7)

Overall organization of talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • content introduced in logical, easy-to-follow sequence • main points emphasized, repeated • transition statements between ideas 	5
Overall effectiveness of slide text/visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slide titles convey key message • good balance of text and figures • text/figures large enough to be seen (including axis labels!) • considered use of color • not too many or too few slides 	10
Overall effectiveness of delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all elements of a good individual presentation (effective use of voice, body, and language), plus: • collaborative effort: partners speak for equal times, don't interrupt each other, take turns being "on stage" • overall appears rehearsed, with smooth transitions between speakers; talk is cohesive • review/preview structure of talk • 12' length (+/- 0.5 min) 	10