Tips for Preparing Poster/Media Presentations

Poster and media presentations allow you to communicate your arguments, ideas and research on a more interpersonal level with one or more people. The use of posters and media also allow you to share your work with others in a more visual manner.

During the Honors Capstone Research Conference's poster session, you will stand next to your poster or media presentation. Conference attendees and judges will approach to view your presentation and to ask you about your capstone project. You should prepare a short talk (1-2 minutes) to highlight the contribution of your capstone project, but be ready to talk extemporaneously about your work.

The most effective posters are those that are easy to read and visually appealing. Your poster can contain text, photos, diagrams, etc. Please keep in mind the following as you prepare your poster:

- Include the title and your name on the poster in large letters. Your main text should be legible from at least three feet away. Choose colors that are legible and easy to read.
- Highlight the main points of your project and avoid long paragraphs of text. You will be able to give more detail when you speak with the conference judges and other attendees. The poster format forces you to condense the essence of your capstone into the main points—which is a great way to focus your project if it is a work in progress.
- o Think about the best way to convey your capstone project. The display for a research paper capstone should indicate the purpose of the project (the research question), the methodology, the main findings and their significance, and the conclusions. You might break up this information, for example, with different sheets of paper and use directional arrows on the poster board to indicate the sequence.
- Project-oriented capstones might follow a similar logic. For example, you might
 indicate your project goal, your strategies and methodology, as well as anticipated results. Public
 Communication students, for example, might also include samples of the flyers they made.

Remember, the Honors office can provide you with a poster board. Easels will be set up at the conference venue.

Media presentations should include a sign indicating the project's title. Media presenters might also consider creating an accompanying poster to indicate the research and/or goals, methodology, etc., behind the final product. (Note: a poster is not obligatory.) Students might also consider the following in preparing for their media presentations:

- The scope of presentation. If you've created a video or a music CD, for example, you might show the entire video, or highlights from the video that best represent your work. You might also consider making several iterations of a video or music clip so that you do not need to rewind a tape or be fidgeting with a CD/DVD player during your presentation.
- The significance of your project. Just as students giving research paper presentations need to highlight the significance of their findings, students giving media presentation should consider ways to highlight the contributions of your work. The significance of your capstone project, for example, may not be the production of a CD. Rather, it may be the incorporation of different filming or recording techniques, the incorporation of particular artistic styles, and/or the use of certain technologies.

If you have never participated in a poster/media presentation before, you might want to look on the Internet for examples of such presentations.

Once you have completed your preparations for the conference, relax and enjoy this special occasion and take pride in the work that you have done on your capstone project.