

How to develop your Student-Industry-CRC Symposium presentation (and hopefully win some nifty cash prizes at the same time...)

E-mail your PowerPoint presentation to Dan Churach (dan.churach@csrp.com.au) before Wednesday 8 June 2006

Each participant to the 2006 Student-Industry-CRC Symposium will give a PowerPoint presentation describing their research. For PhD and Masters students, this presentation will be limited to 15 minutes with a 5 minute question and answer session. The time limit must be kept because of the number of presentation to be made.

There will be a number of cash prize awards made for the presentations judged to be the best. In order for you to design your talk, it is essential to know what the judging is based upon.

For starters, because this symposium involves participants from a range of CRCs doing research on such divergent topics as bioleaching, mining techniques, coking coal and sustainability policy, it is important that you **do not** aim your talk at such a high level others do not know what you are researching. On the other hand, the participants will all be intelligent, high calibre researchers with strong backgrounds in the sciences. In short, you must bill your talk at a happy medium, not “dumbing down” your topic, but also making sure that an intelligent, scientifically literate person is able to understand what it is you are doing.

The judges will be tuned into the fact that some students are just beginning their research and that others are nearly completed. Keeping in mind how deeply you are into your project, the judges will base their scoring of presentations on the following areas:

1. Technical Content: Were the problem and opportunity clearly defined? Is it good science? Are the conclusions reasonable?
2. Structure of the Talk: Are the ideas presented in a logical sequence? Has the talk been pitched at a level to be accessible to an intelligent, scientifically literate? Was timing OK?
3. Personal Style: Is the speaker enthusiastic about the topic? Clarity of speech? Eye contact with audience?
4. Presentation Skills: Good use of available technology? Clarity of overheads? Are your PowerPoint slides readable? Did you crowd too much onto one slide? Do tables, graphs and photos reinforce ideas?
5. Overall Impression: Was the talk interesting? Were questions answered well? Was the speaker in control and confident?

At last year's symposium one of the judges mentioned that the best approach to preparing a talk was to imagine you are presenting to a potential employer. You don't want to scare them

off because you are not able to communicate your work, but you also do not want to be so simple they think you don't know what you're talking about.

Finally, don't be afraid to give credit to those who have helped you. If your CRC/university has a PowerPoint template, use it. Of course you will give credit to your supervisor, but if there are site operators, industry supporters or others who have gone beyond the call of duty to help you, thank them (on no more than one slide!).

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