IMSD Module January 2011
Designing and Delivering Scientific Presentations
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Goals:
In this module, we will provide a comprehensive overview of the components that are essential for the effective design and delivery of scientific presentations. Specifically, we will discuss:
- The modes and genres of scientific presentation
- The process for planning a presentation
- The structures of presentations
- The active process of presentation delivery and audience interaction
- Peer feedback as a formative process

Objectives:
Upon completion of this module, participants will be able to:
- Easily plan a structure for a scientific presentation that is designed appropriately for the context and audience.
- Understand the organizational, visual and rhetorical components of a scientific presentation that makes the difference between a great talk and an ordinary talk.
- Understand and critique best practices in poster design and presentation.
- Use formative peer feedback to give and receive applicable and relevant feedback to improve their scientific presentations.
- Create a compelling presentation that engages the audience and clearly communicates their research.

Day 1: Scientific Talks: Planning and Structure
1. Introductions and Overview of the module
2. Overview of Scientific talk
   - Planning a talk
   - Structure and framework for a talk
3. Break out into pairs
   - Each participant will start to plan a brief (7 min) talk they will give to the group on Day 3.
     In preparation, discuss with your partner:
     - First need to identify: audience?
     - Big picture, context?
     - Key messages
     - Any controversial points/discussion points
     - Take-home message(s)
4. Giving feedback
   Elements of feedback:
   - Presentation style, including interaction with audience
   - Content - what they're saying
   - Materials/visuals
   - Responding to questions
5. Storyboard your talk to the group
   - Each participant will give a brief outline of their planned talk to the group (max 5 min each). The other participants will provide feedback and suggestions.

Day 2: Poster Presentations
1. Follow-up discussion about previous day’s process to reflect on peoples’ strengths, where they want to improve; what did you pick up from watching others.
2. Posters: what, why, how?
3. Work on individual presentation for Day 3.

Day 3: Presentations
1. Presentations (5 – 8 min each). Each presentation will be followed by group feedback. Presenters will also be provided with DVDs of their individual talks so they can review their presentations on their own afterwards.
2. Wrap-up discussion.

Reading/Handouts:
1. What do listeners want from a scientific talk?
2. Receiving feedback
3. Tips for giving feedback
4. Final presentation feedback form

Module assessment:
Participants will complete evaluation surveys; they will also receive separate evaluation surveys from the Sheridan Center.