First Year Presentations for Human Development Graduate Students
Arrangements and Instructions

Date and time: May 9, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to approximately noon

Location: TBA (but in MVR – more information coming soon)

Arrangements:
There will be light refreshments and coffee available at 8:30. Student presentations will begin at 9.

Structure:
Each student will have a total of 20 minutes for presentation and questions about the project. Timing will be strictly enforced because final exams begin that evening and the faculty and student attendees will have other obligations. There will be a brief break after 3-4 presentations (depends on how we end up scheduling this).

What you should prepare:
1. A powerpoint presentation of no more than 6-8 substantive slides (not counting your title slide and any references and sources).
2. A well-rehearsed talk (not completely extemporaneous or casual) to accompany your slides – although you also don’t want to appear to be “reading” a talk. Bringing notes is usually sufficient.

What should you talk about?
Ideally, a first year PhD or masters student will speak about research he or she will conduct or is conducting for the thesis or pre-doctoral project. The audience will expect: 1) discussion of the innovation and significance of the project; 2) appropriate and strong use of theory evident in the development of the project; 3) appropriate references to and use of existing research literature; 4) some development of high quality methods and measures, consistent with the theory being applied and previous research on this topic or a similar one.

Is there a “standard” or “formula” for the slides?
There is a kind of formula, which of course has to be adapted for different sorts of projects at various stages of progress. You really can’t get through more than 6-8 slides in 10 minutes and you want to leave time for questions. And after about 5 slides the audience gets restless and starts to interrupt and ask questions.

Slide 1: Address significance and innovation of your project, which should make a case for the originality of what you are doing.

Slides 2-3: Previous key points from the research literature – give the audience a sense of what the thinking is in your research area and also the research that leads to your hypotheses. Sometimes one slide is sufficient for this – it will depend.

Slides 3-4: Your study aims and hypotheses (if you have developed specific hypotheses). Sometimes one slide will be enough, it depends on your project.

Slide 5: Your sample and design

Slide 6-7: Your methods and measures (include citations if you are using standard measures)
Can we practice?

Yes – please be on the lookout for a new Doodle poll to set up a practice time when we can all attend. This will have to be during the evening – realistically that is about the only time we all can meet together. We can order pizza or another type of easy supper. You should also feel free to test out your presentation with fellow members of your lab. Practice makes perfect.

Your committee chair should provide guidance
The involvement of your chair is essential, but you will find that other members of your committee will defer to the chair rather than provide specific guidance. Other members of your special committee (if you have a second member already) are not expected to provide guidance for the presentations.

How will I know what time I am scheduled?
Marianne Arcangeli will circulate a schedule and you can sign up with her. We should have the schedule out early next week.