Studio & Art History SIPS—Presentations

Senior Presentations
Shoot for a time of twenty to twenty-five minutes for your presentation.

Studio SIPS
You have the option (highly recommended) to give a formal presentation on the Thursday afternoon of the week you exhibit. The talk should cover the development of your work and its relationship to other art, including the art that may have influenced you or that you have found of particular interest.
• Some questions you might ask yourself:
  • What experiences have formed your attitudes about art in general, and the sort of work you have chosen to do?
  • What led to your use of the medium or media in your SIP and other work?
  • How do you see your own work in relation to other contemporary art?
  • What was most successful in your SIP; what didn't work as well?
These are the same kinds of issues that you will discuss in the written component of your SIP, which will be archived in the department along with some digital images of your work. Your talk is akin to an outline of your SIP document.

Research and/or Internship SIPS
You will give a talk and PowerPoint presentation during the new Art History Symposium. You give this talk so we all can benefit from your experiences.
Describe the tasks you had, and what it is like to work and do research in an institution that deals with art.
If you are presenting the results of some of your research, also deal with the processes—how did you find out what you did? If you did a studio SIP and an internship, please discuss both!

Requirements for all presentations
This may seem to include the obvious, but experience has shown us that it is a good idea to explain expectations!
• Do some research on art that relates to what you have done for your SIP—incorporate this into your presentation. Show us which ideas about art that you have learned in your four years are the most significant to you.
• At least a week ahead of time, talk to your SIP supervisor about your ideas for your presentation. Other art students will also be a good source of advice.
• Arrange for images that you will need. You may want to scan slides of your earlier work, as well as your SIP work to put into your PowerPoint presentation. You can scan slides of other art from our collection for this as well. If we do not have slides of what you want to show, you can scan them yourself in the FABLAB.
• Write out what you are going to say, as if it were a paper with a thesis. Organize your talk around a theme of some kind; simply showing your work and making some random comments will not allow you to pass this part of the SIP!
• Practice your presentation, both by showing the slides and giving the talk. You may even want to have a friend listen or talk into a tape recorder. (This would be a good idea even if you prevail upon someone else to listen.) It is important to be heard and understood and to hold the audience’s interest. Think of issues that you want us to discuss that might relate to the reading we’ve been doing.
• Invite friends and family to your presentation if you like (we sometimes invite all the junior art majors, too) and introduce your guests to us.
• Think of the Senior Presentation as a serious event. The skills you practice here will be used in many situations throughout life.

Some Tips for Better PowerPoint Presentations

Design
• Use few words—work with images and a few important words.
• Don’t put up long paragraphs of text—people can look at supporting images or graphics while you read any lengthy quotes or paragraphs.
• Go easy with templates and fancy transitions—sometimes it looks strange when you put images on top of the template, and transitions can easily become cheesy.
• As far as design goes, I think it’s a good idea to use this simple approach: when using black & white images, use a color background—when using color images, use a grayscale background.

Technical
• Don’t distort your images—remember to hold down the shift key as you enlarge or reduce the image—this will constrain the proportions as you alter the size.
• Don’t enlarge images too much, however, so that the image becomes pixilated. You can ask Google to provide only medium or large images, so that you get high quality ones. If need be, go to the library and look up a nice book so you can make scans that will look good.
• With large computers screens currently being marketed I like my images to be around seven inches high by nine inches wide (at 150 dpi).

The Talk Itself
• Practice your presentation; know your images—so you don’t have to look at your notes any more than necessary.
• When you give your presentation, you have to check all equipment being used ahead of time—especially if you’re including clips of video, sound, and the like.
• Have enough images so that you can keep moving…if you get bogged down on a single slide, your audience can fall asleep (especially if you’re speaking in a monotone).
• About that monotone—remember to build in some drama, some suspense…or some redemption. You want to make an emotional (and educational) connection with your audience.
• Another good rule: start strong and end strong—with a great image and a bold statement that sums up your feelings and enthusiasm about your subject.

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