Seminar Presentations



Many courses at UNSW require students to give oral presentations in tutorials and seminars. During your studies, you may be required to give many presentations. Most students are nervous when they first have to speak in front of an audience, but with practice they can become effective presenters.

An Overview

Courses usually have a week-by-week tutorial topic and reading list for which all members of the tutorial group are expected to do some background reading. This may include a seminar presentation component where one (or more) students 'present' a topic to other students, who then join in a discussion.

Giving a seminar presentation can involve:

- · reading background material
- · preparing your presentation
- · leading a group discussion
- · preparing handouts or visual aids
- · preparing relevant and thought-provoking questions
- submitting a written assignment based on the presentation topic

Choosing a Topic

In tutorials and seminars, presentation topics are set well in advance. You may be permitted to choose the topic you will present, or a topic may be allocated to you. If you can choose your topic, the best choice is always the one that interests you the most.

Make sure that you fully understand the question(s) and that you are sure of what you have to do. Do you have to present an argument, explain or discuss something, be critical? If you are unsure of the objectives of your presentation, check with your tutor.

Seminar Papers

After you give your seminar, you may be expected to submit a seminar paper. It should be written in continuous prose (not point form) and be fully referenced. It can be altered or changed, based on the results of the tutorial discussion. Check with your tutor for details.



Background Reading

Research your topic. You must demonstrate an understanding of the main points of your tutorial readings, but you will need to read further. Use your course reading list to find additional relevant information.





