

**BCS 206**  
**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

**Academic Presentation**  
**9/12/2016**

# Today,

1. Discuss what makes a good **academic** presentation
2. Learn about **tips** and **rules of thumb** we should acquire and practice throughout the semester
3. Set **our** goals for **Wednesday** where we discuss the target papers

# Assignments

1. Watch the TED talk by Shawn Achor  
“Happy secret to better work”



2. Go through the “Previous Final Projects”  
here:  
<https://languagedevelopment.wordpress.com>

# “The happiness advantage”

- ▶ What makes this presentation good?
- ▶ What makes this presentation not so good?

# \*Good\* presentations

- ▶ Clear [ message ]  
(not too much information, not too little information)
  - ▶ How do we decide what's “enough”?
- ▶ Guide and control your audience's [ attention ] and [ expectations ]
- ▶ Effective uses of [ examples ]
- ▶ Visual effects are supplemental -- be engaging
- ▶ [ Practice ] !

# Good **academic** presentations

- ▶ What distinguishes a pop-science talk and a science talk?
- ▶ What makes your presentations academically sound?

## A few examples of “Research” Talk

Allison Gopnik (UC Berkeley) California Cog Sci talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbDPpDPvHMs>

Elizabeth Loftus (U Washington) TAM talk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyFyUXvvUeE>

Jeffrey Elman (UCSD) Kavli talk

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhNngnT9\\_Eg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhNngnT9_Eg)

# Let's be more specific: Class presentations

My Sites Reader

**BCS 259: Language Development**

HOME PREVIOUS FINAL PROJECTS EASY SEARCH

Language  
at All  
Ages

**Final Project Collaboration**



# Evaluation criteria

- ▶ Let's discuss the following aspects of the presentations
  - ▶ Templates
  - ▶ colors
  - ▶ fonts (types, size, color)
  - ▶ graphs
  - ▶ (presentation style)

# Some basics: Templates

- ▶ Choose a template and stick to it (throughout the semester)
  - ▶ eliminates the need of “designing” slides each time
  - ▶ allows “recycling” the same slides

# Some basics: Colors

- ▶ All the group members will stick to the same color scheme
- ▶ As you go along, discuss how to emphasize and highlight important information (color? you can also use italics, underlines, and font sizes.)
  - ▶ train your audience so they direct their attention without you explicitly cueing

# Some basics: Fonts

- ▶ This is probably the smallest font size you would like to use in your slides.
- ▶ Don't make things too small or too big.
  - ▶ Don't tell. Show. Use visuals instead of texts

# Some basics: Graphs

- ▶ Legend legend legend! (and axis labels)
  - ▶ If legend/labels/titles in your source material are too small, re-label them
- ▶ Don't use too many colors in a graph
- ▶ When presenting more than one graph, pay attention to how the same set of information is represented in each of them. Make them coherent.

# Some basics: Practice

- ▶ Practice using “Presenter Note” function
- ▶ Go through your slides at least once. Don't assume that you can improvise.

# Summary

## I. Discuss what makes a good **academic** presentation

- ▶ Anticipate and estimate the amount of information in “Common Ground” -- How much does the audience know? What are they expecting to see?
- ▶ Clear structure (Big picture question, specific hypothesis, methods, interpretations, summary)

# Summary

2. Learn about **tips** and **rules of thumb** we should acquire and practice throughout the semester

▶ One template

▶ constant uses of (roughly) the same font sizes and means of emphasis

▶ practice, practice, practice....



# Summary

3. Set **our** goals for **Wednesday** where we discuss our target papers

# By Wednesday (9/14),

1. Read the two “language” papers
  - ▶ Baese-Berk et al. (2013)
  - ▶ Grodner & Sedivy (2011)
  
2. Teams Jaeger and Kurumada
  - ▶ Make a presentation (more info on next slide)
  - ▶ Review the criteria we discussed
  - ▶ Choose 2 people who present
  
3. Team Tadin
  - ▶ Read the both papers
  - ▶ Each member should come up with at least one question to ask after each presentation

- ▶ Each group will use the same template (6 slides)

0. Title

1. Research question

Big picture question + concrete and intuitive illustration

2. Specific Hypothesis

3. Method

4. Main findings

5. Conclusion

# Other to-dos for this week

1. Meet with your mentor
  - ▶ Schedule a meeting for meet and greet
  - ▶ Submit your CITI number to the PI
  
2. Pick a weekly group work time
  - ▶ Talk about how to communicate when you cannot have enough face time
  - ▶ Pick a data sharing methods (Drive, Box etc.)
  
3. Start finding related (background) papers
  - ▶ Your first assignment is a short review of papers related to your assigned paper
  - ▶ due 9/26