

Competition Tips for UC Davis Grad Slam 2021



The funnel model of communication can be helpful. Start with examples that are relevant to your audience, then talk about your research, then return to your original examples.

Keep your slide(s) simple. Use a white background, a simple, legible font, and clean and simple graphics and diagrams. Use as little text as you can!

Eliminate jargon when you can, and carefully define any terms your audience may not be familiar with.

Pay attention to visual details in your video. This includes your personal dress and appearance (go professional), lighting (try for balanced lighting and avoid being backlit), and remove any background objects you don't want on camera.

Avoid using a Zoom background- it tends to wash out your facial and hand gestures.

If you can manage it, try recording yourself standing. This will give you greater ability to make engaging gestures.

Try to frame your video in a way that would capture any hand gestures. Make slightly more exaggerated movements than usual to engage your viewers!

Do not introduce yourself at length! Time is valuable, and the focus is your research topic!

