In addition to written papers, many biologists disseminate the results of their work through oral presentations at professional conferences or meetings. These conferences are a wonderful place to exchange ideas with people interested in your work, gain new insight into your research question or problem, and catch up with old friends. Another great thing about presentations at meetings is that you may present work in progress, which is something that you would not do in a written research paper.

Many people's worst nightmare is giving any type of oral presentation. Unfortunately, the ability to give clear and confident oral presentations is essential for professional biologists and professionals in many other fields as well. The small size of the Comparative Animal Physiology Laboratory sections makes this an ideal forum to practice giving a professional biological talk to other biologists who have the ability to critically evaluate your work and ask insightful questions.

Before you prepare your oral presentation please read the appropriate pages in your writing handbook (only in McMillan so if you have Knisely, borrow the other from a classmate).

Specific Guidelines for Oral Presentations

1. Talks will be presented during the last laboratory period of your scheduled lab section.

2. Unlike papers given at formal meetings, you and your lab partner(s) will present your talk as a group. This sort of presentation can be more difficult than giving one alone since you must organize your talk around different people and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak.

3. Each presentation will be given a total of 20 min: 15 min for the talk and 5 min for questions. To conform to the format of professional meetings, we will strictly enforce the time limit.

4. You must use visual aids in your presentation (see below for tips on how to prepare these). These can be overhead transparencies or a PowerPoint Presentation. The necessary supplies can be purchased at the bookstore or various other places in Tacoma. The Copy Center is able to Xerox laser-printed graphs onto transparencies. Because of problems experienced in past years, we apologize that the Biology Department secretary and stockroom manager will not be available to help with this task or provide the materials.
**ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Evaluation**
We will evaluate your oral presentation according to the following criteria:

**Content:**
- Did the talk contain all the elements outlined above?
- Did you present your study in the best possible light?
- Have you drawn logical conclusions?

**Clarity and Presentation:**
- Was the talk easy to understand?
- Was there evidence that the talk had been practiced?
- Were the visual aids clear and helpful?
- Were there any computer glitches that should have been taken care of before the talk?
- Did you present your study with confidence and make eye contact with your audience?

Please note: Talks will not be evaluated on the media used: as long as the "slides" are clear, uncluttered, large enough to read, and there are no last minute glitches we do not care if you use lowly overheads or a fancy, high-tech PowerPoint presentation. Use what you are most comfortable with.

**Grading**
Please refer to information in the “Writing Assignments” handout on grading collaborative work. Moreover, to make the grading these oral presentations as objective as possible, both animal physiology professors will evaluate each presentation. Thus, your professor will know how much effort you have put into the project and presentation, while the other professor will be a more impartial judge of the work as a whole. We will also solicit comments from outside reviewers (i.e., your peers).