

REU: Sensors in Earth, Oceans, and Space Science (SEOSS)

End of Summer Research Symposium: Student Guide

Date: Wednesday, August 5

Location: Kingsbury Hall S145 and atrium

Presentation Guidelines

Length: Speak for 10 – 12 minutes, then allow 5 minutes for questions

Visuals: Prepare several slides to demonstrate your work. You may also choose to bring in other visual aids like a sensor you've been working with

Audience: REU students, REU mentors, and lab members. Remember, the audience is across a broad range of fields. You have learned more about your research field than most of the audience, so share your new knowledge.

Topics to cover:

- (1) Introduce the broad area of research you are working in, the title of your project if it has one, and the lab group with which you are working
- (2) Introduce yourself, and give credit to anyone else who is working with you
- (3) State your research question or goal. Provide some context: why is this research useful, important, or of interest to the broader group? Think about your audience – you know more about your research field than they do. What did you learn about your research field that you want to share with others? What do they need to know to understand why this is interesting?
- (4) Explain what you have done and why (methods)
- (5) Present your data, or the data you have been working with. This is a great place for graphs, charts, or other graphics!
- (6) What did you find when you evaluated your data? It is okay if you didn't fully answer your original question, but present what you *have* learned.
- (7) What are the next steps in this research? What else is needed to finish answering the question you posed? Even if you are not continuing the research, it is important to identify next steps.
- (8) What have you learned from this REU experience? There may be things you did or learned that do not fit into the research overview, but are useful to share with your audience.

Tips:

- A 12-minute presentation should have approximately 6 – 10 slides
- Practice, practice, practice! It is great to practice *pieces* of your presentation – you don't have to have your results completed to practice the introduction
- Graduate students have experience giving presentations. They are great resources, and great practice audiences!
- Think about the research presentations we heard from the Shoals Marine Lab students. They were brief, but gave us an idea of what the students were doing and why.
- Ask your lab members and mentor how to give proper credit to team members, data sources, and grant funding