

Envirothon Special Topic Question/Oral Presentation Tips

Updated 12/14/18

- Consider wearing the same pants – kakis or black pants, etc. so you all look like a team. Stand up straight. Talk about what you all want to do with your hands while someone else is speaking (hands behind back, in front of you, etc. – try not to put them in your pockets).
- Use hands when presenting to show your enthusiasm
- Point to and incorporate PowerPoint when necessary (show action). If you're talking, have another presenter pointing to the PowerPoint to help the judges follow your plan. This can also show all presenters are engaged during the entire presentation.
- Don't put too much information on one slide. Break it up. There is no limit to how many slides you can have. Just stick to presenting your information in 10 minutes or less. Make sure the judges (10 feet away or more) can read every word on the PowerPoint. No audio is allowed but you can still find ways to be creative!
- Look up when presenting – look at the judges – smile
- If you are excited about presenting, it will come out in your voice. People listen to an energetic voice more than someone talking flat. Make sure you project your voice towards the judges, so they can hear you. And SMILE.
- If you mess up during your presentation, don't acknowledge it. Just keep going no matter what – like that mess-up was planned or never even happened. Many times, the judges won't even know if you pretend like nothing happened or you didn't get caught up in your words.
- Support each team member – Once you're done with your section in the presentation, consider saying, "Now Erika will talk about ____." Then Erika should consider acknowledging when the other team member is done speaking and say "Thank you Dustin" and then move on to talk about their part of the presentation.
- When it's your turn to speak, step out in front of your other team members and then step back in line when you're done and the next person is about to speak.
- Don't be afraid to move around the room. If you want to be creative... BE CREATIVE.
- Consider using simple marketing tools – For example, do you have a catchy title? Play on words? Inspiring quotes that are relative? Positive visuals? Pictures? Video clips that don't need audio? The sky is the limit. Go for it! No idea is stupid! WiFi won't be available.
- Think of this oral presentation as exactly what it is... A PRESENTATION. The judges don't only want to hear your plan, but they want to be entertained too. They want to be impressed with

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your knowledge on the subject but also your presentation skills. Again, your goal is to create a proposed solution to the problem at hand and present it in a meaningful and creative way.

- To help you feel more comfortable during your presentation, practice in front of a mirror. It works!!! You should practice full dry-runs a minimum of three times before you present your material to the judges.

Good Luck!