Reverse Interviews,
Report with Action Plan
&
Group Presentations

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The Week's Reponsibilities

- Pre-survey
  - Log in at www.scienceinterns.com and complete the pre-survey or see Mike for a paper copy to complete.
- Reverse Interviews
  - Prepare questions and interview researchers.
- Report: Researcher focus / Action plan
  - Choose 1 or 2 researchers you've engaged with.
  - Describe your interest in their research and an action plan to get yourself back here this summer (or to another DOE site). (2 pp.)
- Group research presentation
  - Based on a selected BNL research topic or topics, compose a PowerPoint presentation using the individual perspectives of your group.
- Post-survey
  - Log in at www.scienceinterns.com and complete the post-survey or see Mike for a paper copy to complete.

I. Interview with scientists

- General topic(s) to explore
  - Origins
    - The source of an interest in science
    - Choosing a science; choosing a field of research
    - Getting to BNL
  - Field(s) of Interest
    - Finding and sustaining a career's research
  - The Quotidian of Science Research
    - The daily rhythm of a research career
    - Maintaining momentum

Interview Structure

- Preparation prior to the interview
  - Background research on subjects
  - Prepare / Sequence likely questions for each subject
- At the interview: Introductions first
  - Team members
  - Topic to be explored
- Begin the interview
  - Grand Inquisitor? Rotating Quizmaster? Free-for-all?
  - Ask the questions.
  - Be prepared to follow up on an interesting line of thought.
  - Time management!
- Follow up questions
  - Pursue some ideas in more depth.
- End the interview
  - Ask for any information that you may have forgotten or cover a topic that the subject mentioned, but wasn't asked about in detail.
  - Thank the subject.

- Do it all in 15 minutes! Repeat 10 times

II. Report with Action Plan

- Select one or two researchers.

- Describe your interests and how they connect with those of each researcher.

  - Begin with an introductory comment outlining your interests.

  - Introduce each researcher's interests and how they connect to your own.

- Develop an "action plan" that leads to your return to BNL this summer.

  - Some ideas:

    - Contact researcher and demonstrate interest in researcher's field

    - Review of the field's literature emphasizing the researchers' particular project

    - Develop/Sharpen a research skill: Python, C++, R, MatLab, Java, Javascript, LabView, arcGIS, AutoCAD, HTML, Hadoop, etc.

- Two pages.

III. Group PowerPoint Presentations

More on Thursday.

III. Group PowerPoint Presentations

- Each group will produce a single presentation for Friday
- Focus: A BNL research topic(s)
- Each member of the group can contribute a section based on his or her own interests, or the group can explore in greater depth a single, agreed upon topic
- Sources for your presentation:
  - BNL web site, etc.
  - Lectures, tours, etc.
  - Interview material as a resource, etc.

Group Decision

Time limit for each group: 15 minutes (including setup and time for questions)

- Single group topic
  - If the group has a single topic, plan an effective sequence of sub-topics and divide the labor so that each person knows what he or she is responsible for presenting and when.
- Multiple topics
  - Talk with your group about your topic
  - Agree on an effective sequence
- Create and blend slides into one presentation
- Create an opening slide and a closing slide
  - Introduce the topic(s)
  - Thank the audience and OEP

Presenting

- **PREPARATION**
  - Necessary research completed
    - Make sure that you have developed a way to access your research efficiently.
  - Notes organized
    - This is when you first begin to shape the effectiveness what you are going to say.
  - Notes prepared as slides(s) and reviewed
    - Distill your research and notes into topic phrases that will assist your recall of what you want to say and the point you want to support with your research.
    - See this site (The Online Writing Lab at Purdue) for a more detailed exploration of effective PowerPoint presentations:
      - http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/686/01/
  - Notes printed* (Plan B)
    - After all, accidents do happen. Print out your group's PowerPoint presentation--just in case. The real possibility that the printers in the dorms are not working may test your ingenuity.

Presenting

- **POISE**
  - Posture
    - Good posture affirms your interest and conviction
  - Pace
    - Rushing through every point leaves your audience panting to keep up.
  - Pronunciation
    - Mumbling is not a help.
    - Practice unusual words out loud.
  - Projection
    - You must be heard by everyone.
  - Pause
    - While an extended silence can make your audience worry for you, a slight pause after a major point or whenever you see people's heads nod down to take notes is helpful.
  - Personal Connection
    - Eye contact is crucial.
  - Solicit questions and comments.

Presenting

- **PRACTICE**
  - Review
    - Running through the presentation's slides more than a few times will help you to cement the major points in your own mind. It will also keep you from being forced to read your own PowerPoint slide out loud.
  - Revise
    - In spite of your best planning, sometimes you discover that there is a better way. Now's the time to make that change.
  - Rehearse
    - Prepare an opening and a closing statement. You might even make them your first and last slides.
    - Stand up and make the presentation out loud.
    - Do this second thing more than once.
    - Since you will be using PowerPoint, make sure that you and the computer are friends.