California Naturalist Capstone Presentations
Helpful Hints

Principles of good storytelling

- Tell us a story.
- Make us care.
- Share something of your personal experience.
- Make it as multi-sensory as you can, even if it's just with the words you use – describe visuals, sounds, smells, sensations (the weather, texture of objects, etc), tastes, feelings, etc. And if it's something you can share with us directly, fantastic!

Questions to inform how you craft your presentation

- You may want to consider it journalistically and answer some or all of the following questions. Who, what, when, where, why, how, and how much (time, money, distance, etc)?
- What interests you about this topic?
- What did you learn?
- What are the most fascinating things you discovered?
- Was it fun? Hard? Easy? Other?
- What do you wonder? What are you curious about?
- Where do you think you'd like to go with this?
- What are the options for exploring this further?
- Why is it important? To you? To a broader audience? To the world?
- Who else is looking at, investigating, studying, exploring this? What people, organizations?
- Did anything surprise you?

Putting it all together

- In creating your presentation, get it as tight and concise as you think it can possibly be, then ask yourself how you would cut it in half. That will reveal what's truly important, and you can refine it even more. Average U.S. English speaking pace is 110-150 words per minute, so a 5-minute presentation would have 550-750 words.

- Remember to cite your sources (your original research, interviews, scientific books or other publications, online resources, etc) and credit photos.

- You can put together a short PowerPoint presentation (5-7 slides with images, a few bullet points, lots of white space, etc), show us relevant objects that you have created or acquired, create a poster board type presentation piece, do speaking only (for example, literally tell us a story), sing, act something out…the options are pretty broad.

- Practice giving the presentation out loud. Five minutes will go really fast once you're up in front of the class. And remember there will be about 20 presentations. ☺

- ***Note…***If you are doing a PowerPoint, or will be using some other kind of technology (sound playback, etc), please plan to submit your material the week before our last class. All the PPTs will need to be on the same computer and everything will need a tech check (which Cal Nat instruction staff will do) for the presentation time to go smoothly.

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