

Oral Topic Options

Option #1 – Design Your Own: Students selecting to do so may work with a committee member to create a unique creative visual presentation strategy that meets overall project/presentation guidelines; **HOWEVER, this should be done as soon as possible to meet project deadlines for initial contract approval and final submission.**

Option #2 – Virtual Training and Development Workshop Presentation: For this option, you could research a topic exploring barriers or challenges in any communication area discussed in your coursework (this can be a barrier/issue uncovered during research you have done for another course assignment, or it can be something you are interested in researching) in order to record an interactive virtual training/development workshop that might be used by an organization to address the barriers/issues you have identified and provide solutions to the organization's members. You are required to incorporate your courses/research interests as appropriate.

You will want to incorporate some theoretical perspectives in the exploration of this problem (possibly a barrier/cause/solution format) in this persuasive and demonstrative presentation. However, workshops can be accomplished in a variety of ways; creativity and innovation are encouraged for this option. **You are encouraged to include visual elements (video, charts, graphs, images, websites, etc.) and virtual interaction to engage your viewers in your topic. (20 min. +/- 5 min., min. of 5 verbal research citations).**

Option #3 – Leader Interview w/Profile: For Leadership students. If you are interested in this option, you are asked to profile an individual working in a leadership position within your career field/area of interest. This individual may be in any context (for example, social, religious, political, business, education, or sports). This individual should be someone who will grant you a personal interview and/or allow you access to him/her (even if this is virtually) over the next few weeks. Ideally you will shadow them to observe them in their work environment; however, given the COVID pandemic limitations, observation is NOT required to be successful. If you do choose to observe, shadow, or meet in person, please make sure it is safe for you and your interviewee. In addition, please respect requests for confidentiality/anonymity on behalf of the interviewee and consider privacy issues when considering where to store your video (YouTube, etc.). Otherwise, in your interview, try to learn as much as possible about your individual in order to present a holistic profile. Although the questions you will ask will ultimately be reflective of who you are profiling, the following list might be helpful in planning for your interview:

- Tell me about your career path and career decisions.
- What is your background, in terms of education and experience?
- How important is communication in your work?
- What are the most important skills that have prepared you for success in the

workplace?

- What are some of the issues related to the future of work as we reflect on the influence the pandemic has had?
- Who do you consider to be excellent role models? Why?
- Who have been influential people for you?
- How important is mentorship in career advancement?
- What are some of the most important overall lessons you have learned?
- What do you think is the most difficult aspect of maintaining an ethical power balance in the workplace?
- What are your goals and ambitions?
- How have you worked to prepare yourself to promote cultural inclusiveness in a global environment?
- What do you think is most helpful in leading a diverse workforce?
- What do you consider the greatest challenge/obstacle for equality in terms of opportunities for advancement?
- What advice would you offer those entering this career field?

The data collected in your interview and observations should be used to develop a Leader Profile (interview outline) that defines and explains appropriate and relevant theory/themes/concepts applicable to your profile; any recommendations/assessments you would include to strengthen problem areas you might identify; and any overall lessons learned/conclusions from your interview. You are required to incorporate your other courses/research interests where appropriate. **The finished presentation should include visuals (video clips, portions of your interview – with permission, PowerPoint slides). (20 min. +/- 5 minutes and 5 scholarly sources/references minimum on slides).**