COMP80122

4. Session

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How to develop your storyline
Storyline: relevant points

• Setting the scene:
  – research area
  – your problem in general
  – why is that interesting/relevant?

• Focus:
  – your Research Hypothesis/Question

• Methodology/approach/work done:
  – what you have done/learned so far

• Context:
  – how it relates to other people’s work

• Contributions made:
  – which new insights were gained
  – did you dis-prove your research hypothesis/answer question?

• Outlook/next steps/open questions

in which language? Terminology?
Know your Terminology

- “How does this relate to biometric annealing?”
- “Wouldn’t the Kartoffelpuffer approach work faster?”

- Diligently
  - read
  - understand
  - take notes
  - ask
  - discuss

- Don’t **assume** meaning of/ **make up** new words
Storyline - more questions

- Do we want an overview at start?
- Do we want a summary at end?

- How do I explain holes/shortcomings in others’ work?
- How do I explain holes/shortcomings in my work?

- What if I cannot explain everything in detail?
- Which bits to leave out?
Storyline - how to go about things

1. Think long & hard about
   a. core points/observations/claims you want to make about
      i. your work
      ii. existing work
      iii. applications
   b. terminology to use

2. Write these (core points and terms) down
   a. on post-it notes

3. Order & structure them
   a. to turn them into a story

4. Sleep over this, reflect on it the next day
   a. possibly modify

5. Discuss with somebody/supervisor

6. ...only then start on draft for slides/paper/…
Let’s practice outlining!

1. Think about a 5 minute presentation about
   – your taster project or
   – your MSc project or
   – your UG/Diploma/3rd year project
   – sorting problems & algorithms or
   – shortest paths problems & algorithms

2. in ~15 minutes, go through 1-3 of previous slide

3. in 5 minutes, explain your “story” to your neighbour
   – did they think it was clear?
   – did you find it easy to explain?

4. swap
Once you have your slides, practice:

1. give your presentation (with slides) “in your head”
   - do the slides work?
   - are they in the right order?
   - are you missing an example? a picture? a break-point?
   - add/improve these.

2. do (1) again with improved storyline/slides
   until you are happy because you have got them **right**

3. give your presentation out loud (ideally to a friend/flat mate)
   - do the slides work?
   - are they in the right order?
   - are you missing an example? a picture? a break-point?
   - add/improve these.

4. do (3) again with improved storyline/slides
   until you are happy because you have got them **right**
things mentioned earlier...
Voice

• Can be badly affected by *nerves*
  – higher pitch
  – tremble
  – loss of volume control

• Central medium for oral presentation
  – if you *worry* about your voice, *do* something:
    • try it out with a friend
    • follow some online tutorials on *voice projection* & *breathing*
  – your voice is *trainable*
    • but this needs time and effort
Body Language

• Your observations from RS about body language?
• Talk to the audience!
• Look at the audience!
• Show some enthusiasm!
• Don’t talk to the wall/laptop/screen!
• Find a good place for your hands!
• Careful with props!
Body language - how to dress?

• Is dress/clothes important for your presentation?

• Effects of presentation situation: you will feel
  – very warm
  – looked at by many eyes

• ...hence you want to feel
  – comfortable even if you are sweating
  – good in your skin/clothes
Coping with nerves

• Your observations?
  – who is stressed/nervous?
  – what do stressed presenters do?
  – how does that make the audience feel?

• What can we do about it?
  – accept it
  – be super well prepared
  – learn relaxation techniques
  – avoid counter-productive reactions
    • procrastination
    • low voice/high pitch
    • talking to wall/ceiling/...
your end-of-year progression interviews
Your End-of-Year Interview

- 15 minute presentation
  - don’t forget everything we discussed here

- Interview
  - ask if you don’t understand a question
  - some questions’ goals may be unclear to you

- Don’t forget that your interviewers may
  - know nothing about your research area
  - know none of your acronyms/terms
  - still provide useful feedback & helpful insights
Organisation