

# Project Connection

## The Final Product and Presentation

Your final presentation should be more than just a factual, written report of the information you have found. To make the most of your hard work to this point, you need to select a format for the final presentation that will suit your strengths as well as the nature of your topic.

### Presentation Styles

In your presentation, you could use

- a report on an experiment or an investigation
- a summary of a detailed written product, such as a newspaper article or an editorial with commentary
- a case study
- a pamphlet
- a short story, musical performance, or play
- a Web page
- a PowerPoint® presentation
- a video or slide show
- a debate
- an advertising campaign or well-designed logo
- a demonstration or the teaching of a lesson

What follows are some of the decisions that others have made about the presentation of their project.

### Project 1 *Weather Predictions*

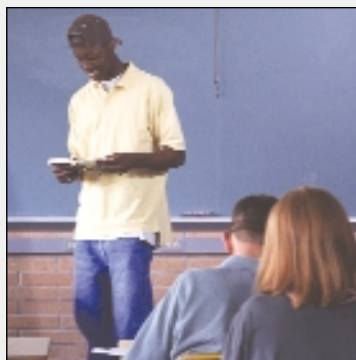
Muhamud has done a project on the mathematics of weather predictions. He decides that his presentation will be a demonstration of how a weather report is prepared, including the mathematics used, followed by an actual TV weather report. He also plans to hand in a written report on his research and conclusions.

### Project 2 *Gender Differences*

Ming has studied the differences between the responses of females and males on cognitive aptitude tests. To illustrate her findings, she will have the class complete one of the assessment tasks during her presentation and then compare the results with standardized norms. Ming's project will also include testing she has done on randomly selected students at her school.

### Project 3 *Sleep Patterns and Academic Success*

Laura studied the relationship between the number of hours of sleep students get and their academic performance. During her presentation, Laura will summarize the regressions she has performed and present her position that a student must get seven hours of sleep to be successful in school. At the end of her presentation, the class will spend a few minutes debating her thesis.



## Learning Styles

People have different learning styles and these styles dictate how the presentation is delivered as well as received. For example, some people understand best by listening. Their best presentation style will involve the use of words, music, and so on. Other people are visual learners; they learn best from visual aids like overhead transparencies, videos, and pictures. Finally, kinesthetic learners need to do and touch before understanding is reached. Their best presentation style will involve movement, such as a play or a performance.

To help you decide on the type of presentation you want to create, try answering the following questions:

1. (a) Do you think you learn best by hearing, seeing, or doing? Explain.  
(b) How might your answer to part (a) influence the type of presentation you create?  
(c) From which type of presentation do you think you will gain the greatest understanding? Why?
2. Before giving your presentation, make sure that you answer these questions about your presentation:
  - Did I define my topic well? What is the best way to define my topic?
  - Is my presentation focused? Will others in the class find it focused? Did I organize my information effectively?
  - Did I summarize relevant information?
  - Is it obvious that I am following a plan in my presentation?
  - Am I satisfied with the presentation? What might make it more effective?
  - What unanswered questions do I still have?

## Executive Summary

Sometimes, it is effective to give your audience an executive summary of your presentation. This is a one-page summary of your presentation that includes the reason for having the presentation and the conclusions you make. Ask your teacher about making copies of your summary for the class.