Additional Oral Presentation Tips

1. Start with an interesting introduction
   - As with good essays, start with an intro that is eye-catching
   - Don’t start with something everyone would expect you to say, such as
     - “I interviewed Professor Adam Smith …”
   - Try something different, such as
     - “When I walked into Professor Adam Smith’s office, what immediately caught my eye were the many drawings and paintings he had displayed on his wall. Aside from being a statistician, he’s apparently a huge art lover …”

2. Record yourself, and self-critique
   - During one of your rehearsals, record your own voice with an audio device (laptop mic, iPod/iPhone mic)
   - Using the guidelines provided (the list of 12 suggestions) carefully listen to your performance and see if you can detect any room for improvement.
     - Pay special attention to questioning intonations
     - Take note of the usage of “uhh”, “umm”, “like”, “…and stuff”
   - If you have a video recorder, record your performance and critique yourself
     - Pay special attention to how much time you spend looking at your notes
     - Take note of how dynamic/enthusiastic you appear
   - If you cannot record yourself at all (audio or video), you can ask a friend to watch one of your rehearsals and offer feedback. Again, provide your friend with the list of 12 suggestions as s/he watches your presentation.

3. Finish with a strong conclusion
   - One approach: Repeat the main highlights of your presentation
   - Be sure to end your last sentence with an emphatic note to signal to the audience you are done
   - Don’t end your talk too soon. Ending a little early is okay, but end too early and it’ll seem that you weren’t prepared and that your talk did not have sufficient substance.