

# ACFA7004 — Research Methods and Professional Development

## Activity 2: Building Your Presentation (Assessment Component 2 — 30%)

**Purpose of this activity:** This presentation communicates the same research proposal you developed in Activity 1, but compressed into a maximum **10-minute** spoken presentation. Work through each section below and answer the prompt questions — your answers become your speaker notes and slide content. Once complete, design your slides, rehearse to time, and upload:

1. The completed **PowerPoint (.pptx) file** — submitted via Turnitin on Moodle by **7 August 2026**
2. Deliver the **in-person presentation** on **10 August 2026** (Week 10)

**Tip:** Reusing content from your Research Proposal (Activity 1) is expected and sensible — this presentation should tell the same research story, just more concisely and visually. Aim for roughly **1 slide per minute** (excluding a title slide), so approximately 8-11 content slides.

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### SECTION 1: Research Context/Background — 17% total

(Overview 10% + Literature support 7%)

**Instructions:** Give the audience just enough background to understand why your topic matters — visually and briefly, not as dense text.

**Questions to answer:**

1. In 2-3 sentences, what is the field your research sits in, and why is it topical right now?
2. What are the 2-3 most important recent developments or trends you will highlight (each needs a supporting citation)?
3. What single fact, statistic, or real-world example will you use to hook the audience's attention in your opening?

**Slide guidance:** 1-2 slides. Use a diagram, statistic, or timeline rather than a wall of text.

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### SECTION 2: Research Problem — 12% total

(Problem statement 5% + Literature support 7%)

**Instructions:** State the problem clearly and back it with evidence that a gap genuinely exists.

**Questions to answer:** 4. What is your one-sentence problem statement? 5. What 2-3 pieces of literature-backed evidence show this is a real, unresolved gap (cite sources)? 6. Why should this specific audience (your peers, lecturers) care that this problem is unsolved?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide, ideally visualising the "gap" (e.g. a simple comparison table of existing approaches and their shortfall).

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### SECTION 3: Research Aim and Objectives — 20%

**Instructions:** Present your aim and SMART objectives clearly — this is the single highest-weighted section of the presentation, so make it unambiguous.

**Questions to answer:** 7. What is your research aim, stated as one sentence? 8. What are your 3–5 SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)? List them as short, parallel bullet points suitable for a slide. 9. Can you explain, in one sentence per objective if asked, *how* each objective is measurable and time-bound?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide for the aim, 1 slide for the objectives (numbered list).

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### SECTION 4: Brief Literature Review and Summary — feeds into Section 1 & 2 marks (CA1)

**Instructions:** You will not present a full systematic literature review on stage — summarise it into the key message that leads to your research gap.

**Questions to answer:** 10. What 3–4 themes or bodies of work did your literature review identify? 11. What is the single sentence that sums up "this is what's missing" — the literature gap your research addresses? 12. Which 2–3 sources are the most important to name out loud during the talk?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide, ideally a simple visual (thematic map, comparison table) rather than a bullet-heavy summary.

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### SECTION 5: Research Methodology — 25% total

(Methods + justification 15% + Data collection/evaluation 10%)

**Instructions:** Explain your plan for *how* you will actually carry out the research — this needs to sound credible and well-justified, not just described.

**Questions to answer:** 13. What research approach are you taking (e.g. Design Science Research, experimental, simulation, case study) and why is it right for your problem? 14. Is your study quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods — and why? 15. What is your data source (named dataset, synthetic data, logs, etc.) and collection method? 16. How will you evaluate your results — what metrics or analysis techniques will you use, and why are they the right ones? 17. What is one likely challenge in your methodology, and how will you address it if asked in Q&A?

**Slide guidance:** 2 slides — one for research design/approach, one for methods, data, and evaluation (a simple pipeline/flow diagram works well here).

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### SECTION 6: Project Planning and Resources — 10%

**Instructions:** Show the audience you have a realistic, achievable plan.

**Questions to answer:** 18. What are your key project phases and milestones between now and submission? 19. What resources do you need (software, hardware, data access, supervisor input) and do you already have them? 20. What is your single biggest scheduling risk, and your mitigation plan?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide with a simple timeline/Gantt-style visual — avoid a dense table.

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## SECTION 7: Project Impact and Limitations — 5%

**Instructions:** Be honest and specific — this shows critical, postgraduate-level awareness.

**Questions to answer:** 21. What is the expected impact of your research (academic, professional, or societal)? 22. What are 1-2 genuine limitations or constraints of your planned study?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide, split visually into "Impact" and "Limitations."

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## SECTION 8: References — 6%

**Instructions:** IEEE style, numbered, consistent with in-text citations used across your slides.

**Questions to answer:** 23. Have you listed every source cited during the talk on a single references slide, numbered to match your in-text citations [1], [2]...? 24. Are all sources recent (last 5 years) unless genuinely seminal?

**Slide guidance:** 1 slide, small font is acceptable here since it will not be read aloud in detail.

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## SECTION 9: Presentation Style — 5%

**Instructions:** This mark rewards delivery and slide design, not just content.

**Questions to answer:** 25. Have you rehearsed and timed the presentation to fit within 10 minutes? 26. Is each slide visually uncluttered (minimal text, clear headings, consistent formatting/branding)? 27. Do you have a clear opening (hook) and closing (summary/take-away) rather than ending abruptly on the references slide? 28. Have you prepared for likely questions on your methodology and objectives?

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### Before you upload

- ☐ Slide count is roughly 1 slide per minute (~8-11 content slides plus title and references)
- ☐ Content matches and is consistent with your Research Proposal (Activity 1)
- ☐ SMART objectives are clearly and explicitly presented
- ☐ IEEE in-text citations on content slides match the references slide
- ☐ Rehearsed to fit within the 10-minute limit
- ☐ PowerPoint (.pptx) uploaded via Turnitin on Moodle by **7 August 2026**
- ☐ Ready to deliver in person on **10 August 2026**