

Speaker Guide

Updated June 2024

Thank you for your interest in the Marin Science Seminar. This document will inform you of what to expect and how to best plan your presentation.

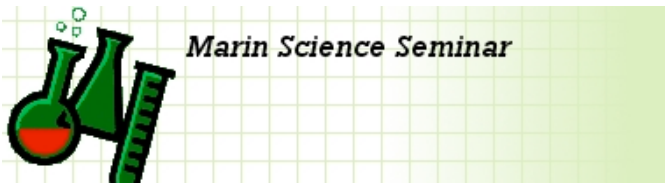
What You Need to Know

About the Seminar: The Science Seminar is a one-hour lecture/presentation with a question and answer period targeted at high school science students in the San Rafael High School district. Seminar sessions are held on a Wednesday evening during the school year, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Terra Linda High School's Innovation Hub, 320 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, 94903.

Seminar speakers are scientists, researchers, medical professionals, mathematicians, engineers, environmental professionals, computer programmers, and graduate students with relevant work and public speaking experience. The topics presented are in a specific area of the speaker's expertise, geared to interested high school students. The format is a 30 - 45 minute presentation with a Q & A period.

Time Allotment: Please apportion your 60 minutes of presentation time to accommodate the following three areas. Suggested time allotment is given after each description but feel free to do as you like so long as all three areas are covered.

1. Introduction: Who you are and where you work. What first got you interested in your field? Where and how long you trained. (5-10 min.)
2. Topic Discussion: The topic/specialty on which you are presenting. Please gear this to a high school audience and include as much interactivity as possible. See below for detailed suggestions. (30 -35 min.)
3. Questions & Answers, Suggestions for students interested in a career in your field. (15-20 min.)



Speaking to Teenagers:

We have surveyed the students and spoken with science teachers regarding student feedback. The following are some guidelines on what the students say they like the most and what works best in terms of conveying the information.

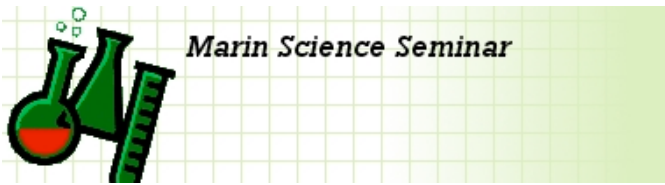
□ *Graphics and multimedia.* Please make sure your presentation has plenty of graphics rather than simply charts and quotes. The students will be listening to you speak, and most of what you will be telling them is new. Audiovisual aids in the form of graphics, movies and sounds are all welcome options for layering the learning experience. Please note the **wifi is not good at the school**. Please download any movies and screenshot links to websites since *online content is simply not reliable*. Thank you for understanding.

□ *Interaction.* The more you directly involve your audience, the more receptive and responsive they will be. Rhetorical and direct questions both improve audience involvement. Something as simple as asking the group every now and then if they have ever heard of X can accomplish this goal.

□ *Humor.* If you can get the audience to chuckle, you have their attention. General levity, references to popular culture, memes, imaginative comparisons, exaggerated self-deprecation or lionizing: any of these can work to achieve the goal of capturing the students' attention and helping them grasp your topic. Make it fun, even silly if you want to.

The Venue:

Terra Linda High School's Innovation Hub (IH) is on the first floor by open doors. Park or enter by the San Rafael City Schools entrance. The entrance to the IH is by the staff parking, through the courtyard on the 1st floor. There may be 15 – 70 people in attendance. There is an integrated (hardwired) AV system but suboptimal WiFi. Most presenters bring their own laptop. If you do, please also bring an HGMI adapter for the LCD projector. Otherwise let us know and you can use our laptop.



Time: Please arrive at the high school around 7 pm on the evening of your presentation. Feel free to call us (415-860-2573) when you arrive and we will send someone out to escort you to the classroom. The presentation needs to begin as close to 7:30 pm as possible and finish as close to 8:30 pm as possible. Feel free to run over 5 minutes, but if there are a lot of questions, we will ask if you are willing to entertain them after the talk. (These kids have school tomorrow!) It is better to end in a timely manner and to take individual questions from students who approach you at the end.

Please bring: Your presentation on a laptop with an HDMI adapter (or let us know what kind of port your device has and we'll make sure we have the proper adapter.)

What We Need to Know

- Draft presentation title and description. The snappier, the better – we may rename it, with your consent, to make it more high school student-friendly
- A short bio or your CV for use on the website and in the introduction
- A photo in electronic format of you or of something relevant to your talk (if you don't have anything, we'll put something in there from the Internet.)
- Do you have other materials to share with the students such as demonstrables (robots, whale skeletons, etc.) or handouts?
- Is it ok for us to videorecord your presentation and post it to our Vimeo account? (<https://vimeo.com/marinscienceseminar>)
- Can our science journalism intern email you with questions for our blog?
- Email/Google Drive us a copy of your slide deck before your presentation in case

Thank you so much for your interest in the Marin Science Seminar!