How to give an effective oral presentation:

I. Start at the beginning.
   A. Do background research to emphasize your main points.
   B. If making presentation from paper, don’t just read your paper.
   C. Make an outline
      1. Presentation outlines are different from paper outlines because you are speaking, not reading (orality vs. literacy debate)
      2. Presentations are less formal and more conversational than a written paper.
      3. Your outline should include an introduction, conclusion, and transition sentences just like when you will speak it.

II. Introduce your topic
    A. It’s not enough just to begin speaking; you have to state your main purpose for giving the presentation.
    B. Give the audience a brief overview of what you will cover in the presentation after you state your main point, sort of like a road map (uncertainty reduction theory).
    C. Use transitions to begin into your sub points.

III. Give your main points
     A. Make sure your points relate to your main topic or thesis statement.
     B. Show enthusiasm so your audience doesn’t get bored.
     C. Make sure you cite sources orally.
        1. Just like in your written paper, you have to cite your sources orally so that you can’t be accused of plagiarism.
        2. Example: As Parker states in his article “Life unexpected” written in 2014, life can be unexpected.

IV. End with a bang
    A. Your conclusion should conclude, give the audience a sense of completion.
    B. Review what you covered.
    C. Restate your main point or thesis.
D. Have a vivid clincher so that you don’t have to say the end and your audience really knows you are finished.

V. PRACTICE!!!
A. A good oral presentation does not come by making your notes and giving it cold. You have to practice.
B. Give your speech in front of a mirror or to a friend. Make a video of yourself and see what you did well and what needs work.
C. Have good eye contact, don’t just read notes.
D. Use vocal variety so the audience doesn’t lose interest as you drone on.
E. It’s ok to move around a little bit; just don’t make the audience seasick.
F. Visual aids are helpful if used appropriately.

Have fun and pick a topic you enjoy. If you enjoy it, your audience will too!!