Grading Rubric for Seminar Critiques

Your name: Kyra Glowczak

Seminar critiqued (presenter, title, location) :
Presented by Elaine Ostrander Ph. D.
Title- Canine Genetics: Studying Disease Susceptibility and Cancer Risk
Location: Unknown as it appears to mainly reach an online audience in front of a greenscreen through iBiology site
Grade the seminar in the following areas:

• Organization (0-20pts):
20
This was part one of a two part presentation. I plan to revisit the second half for my next critique, but this introduction to the subject was well thought out and explained to any uninformed members.

• Content (0-20pts):
18
I honestly thought the title was a bit misleading. The cancer risk talk was brief, towards the end and mainly focused on understanding allele relevance and RNA expression. The presentation was more on ancestry, methods, and understanding the dendrogram as a whole.

• Subject Knowledge (0-20pts):
20
It was clear that the speaker was very educated in her subject of study.

• Graphics (0-20pts):
20
Even when she did not focus on scientific material towards the beginning, there was an image to go along with her introduction.

• Eye contact (0-5pts):
5
She made great eye contact throughout the entirety of the presentation.

• Elocution (0-5pts):
5
Her words were very well enunciated and there was no difficulty in understanding her speech.

• Enthusiasm (0-5pts):
3

While the topic itself was of mutations that led to disease in different breeds, it was difficult to tell if her tone and expression was proper for the topic. To me, her voice sometimes sounded mundane.

• Time (0-5pts):
2
There was no rushing, but I felt like the pace could have been quickened.

• Overall grade (0-100pts):

93/100

Briefly summarize:
There are hundreds of closed populations of Dogs, while there is a small amount in human populations. These populations, accounted for by the American Kennel Club, make studying genetics accessible. A neighbor joining tree was formed based off of SNP chips, which equated to two alleles. The tree contained just under 200 dog breeds, five wolves, and two golden jackals. With this information, a dendrogram was formed using color coordination to represent clades. The diagram is used to hypothesize which genes are responsible for certain diseases. Disease migration becomes traceable through the overlapping of colors on the diagrams, showcasing breed origin. Morphology is briefly covered, as it can be surprising to know that all of the breeds of dogs are of the same species. Phenotype and ancestry are a large part of genomic study to account for as well.
Strong points of this presentation –
The speaker makes information easy to retain, while not simplifying too much, or talking down to the audience. She provides visuals that are key to holding the audience's attention and understanding. The only time in which she wasn't facing the audience was when she was explaining a diagram, image, or a key bullet point.
Areas for improvement –
While it was in my topic of interest, and about a serious illness, I wouldn't have minded a quicker pacing. If I weren't actively trying to critique and utilize this for the seminar project, and was watching it on my own time, I would speed up the presentation.
What you learned from this seminar that can help you with your oral presentation-
While there was a great amount of scientific information covered, there were also brief moments of humor, or addressing an emotional connection of the audience. These lighthearted, or heartfelt moments connect the audience more to the speaker, as well as the topic and engage listeners. I would really like to apply that to my research oral presentation. It was clear that the research and the study cared about the owners and pets, behind the statistics.