That’s SO meta!
A (good?) talk on how to give a good talk

Chris Mayne
What are some characteristics of a BAD talk?

a GOOD talk?
Disclaimer:

1. I am a scientist, so I will be discussing advice related to my nerdy discipline. You should consult your mentor about yours.

2. I will be breaking some of my rules! (this is not a research talk and I want these slides to serve as a resource for you)

*Let’s have a discussion!
Considerations for a research talk

1. Audience
2. Time
3. Organization
4. Formatting and Visuals
5. Presentation Style
The Audience

- Who are they?
- Why do they care?
- What is the format? Discussion or not?

- What do they NEED to know to understand?
- Shared vocabulary? AVOID jargon!
Time

• going over time is a MAJOR problem
• shows that you do not respect the audience
• loss of credibility
• aim for ≤1 slide per minute and PRACTICE
Time

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- aim for \( \leq 1 \) slide per minute and PRACTICE!

DON’T tell them EVERYTHING you know!
Organization: Tell a Story

1. Setting
2. Conflict
3. Action and Climax
4. Resolution
Organization: Tell a Story

1. Setting
   - **Introduction and Background**
   - Why is this important?
   - What do they need to know?

   ![Diagram showing the stages of a story: Setting, Action, Climax, Resolution, Conflict]
Organization: Tell a Story

2. Conflict

• What is the problem to be solved?

• What is your hypothesis/goal?
3. Action and Climax

• **Methods and Results**

• what you did and how

• use a question to transition into each part

• answer the question with data
Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax
   • **Methods** and **Results**
   • only show parts of the figures you will discuss
3. Action and Climax

- **Methods and Results**
- only show parts of the figures you will discuss
3. Action and Climax

- Methods and Results
- graphs >>> tables
3. Action and Climax

- Methods and Results
- graphs >>> tables

Table 5. Impact failure threshold of 1018 cold rolled steel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature (deg C)</th>
<th>Impact Energy (joules)</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-195</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>20.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>14.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>4.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Action and Climax

- **Methods and Results**
- DO NOT have to tell story in the order you did it
3. Action and Climax

- **Methods and Results**
- lead to the most exciting and/or most FINAL result
3. Resolution

- **Summary** and **Conclusions**
- what to take away
- remind why it was worth their time
Organization: Tell a Story

3. Resolution
• Future Directions
• reflect and look toward future
• Acknowledgements
• What are some examples of annoying visuals and formatting?
Formatting/Visuals: Don’t distract from the message

- use solid black/white background or very subtle gradient
- avoid distracting animations
- a simple appear/disappear is the only animation ever needed
Formatting/Visuals: Don’t distract from the message

- use solid black/white background or very subtle gradient
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- a simple appear/disappear is the only animation ever needed
Formatting/Visuals: Don’t distract from the message

- use color **selectively** to draw attention
- try to use differing brightness/patterns
  - >1/25 people will be colorblind in a non-Viterbo population
Formatting/Visuals: Don’t distract from the message

• keep fonts consistent
Formatting/Visuals: Keep text limited and large

- size 28 font is the smallest except for citations, etc.
- if you need smaller, you should eliminate text
- consider eliminating slides that are all text, use pictures and “tell the story”
Formatting/Visuals: Keep text limited and large

- don’t use text on the slide for YOU, only include if for the AUDIENCE
- use “presenter view” for your reminders
Genetic shifting of the microbiota leads to significant differences in disease and T cell development.

**Mean Disease Course**

- WT RAG
- Mock Tg RAG
- Co-housed RAG

**Development of protective regulatory T cells**

- WT
- NOD
- Co-housed

Hey Chris. Don't be an idiot.
Presentation Tips: Be prepared

• practice out loud, if possible in the same room
• time and record yourself
• get honest CRITICISM
Presentation Tips:
Be comfortable with nerves

- a little bit of nerves are good!
- short pauses are ok, avoid “um” and “uh”
Presentation Tips:
Be enthusiastic and professional

• if you can’t be excited about your work, how can the audience?
• get out from behind the podium
Presentation Tips: Be enthusiastic and professional

Top complaints of Powerpoint talks (Paradi, 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The speaker read the slides to us</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full sentences for text</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text too small to read</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- don’t read off the slides
- talk to the audience, rotating eye contact around the room
Presentation Tips:
Be enthusiastic and professional

- draw attention to specific aspects of figures with hands, just don’t flail
- if using laser pointer, use two hands

“I’m not sure what to do with my hands”
Presentation Tips:
Answer questions confidently and honestly

• questions are good! it means people were following and are interested!
• take your time
• remember this is your work, so you know it!
• don’t BS!
• it is fine to say you aren’t sure and then make clear you are speculating based upon other knowledge
Conclusions:
I look forward to hearing YOUR stories!

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2. Time
3. Organization
4. Formatting and Visuals
5. Presentation Style
Thanks to Kirsten Gabriel for the invite!