Tips on Oral Presentations

ENSC 401 Lecture

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Rationale (Why?)

- Key findings highlighted (developed in introduction, reinforced during results, driven home in summary)
- Interpretation/recommendations clearly explained
- Targeted to audience (general/scientific/policy)
- Keep the message simple
# Structure of a Talk

| Introduction       | big picture  
|                   | research fit into big picture  
|                   | expectations/hypothesis  |
| Methods           | BE BRIEF  |
| Results & Discussion | Graphical representations  |
| Summary           |  |
| Implications      | relate your work back to the big picture  |
## Number of Slides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Slides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title Slide</td>
<td>1 slide – introduce authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1-4 slides introduce ideas/hypotheses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>1-2 slides keep to a minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>2-4 slides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>1-2 slides</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Format

Amount of Text
Font Size
Background
Animation
Statistical analysis of the invertebrate species *Drosophelia Aurealis*, were found to be preferentially located in the interstitial spaces of rocks with dimensions eight centimeters in length and two centimeters width and two centimeters height rather than in the interstitial spaces of rocks with smaller dimensions while *Drosophelia Couchis* were found to preferentially inhabit rocks interstices with smaller dimensions.

Water flow and stone size have been demonstrated to co-vary with larger stone size reflecting higher flow rates (Goo et al., 2007).

These results prove that *Drosophelia Aurealis* prefer to live in regions where the water flow is higher compared to *Drosophelia Couchis*.

OR

*Drosophelia Aurealis* preferred stream beds with stone sizes > 8x2x2 cm.

=> Higher flow
Font Size

FONT SIZE 18pt

FONT SIZE 18 pt BOLD

FONT SIZE 28 pt BOLD

FONT SIZE 40 pt
Background

(Uniform – low contrast pictures work well
Ensure the text colour contrasts with the
Background – generally white or yellow text
On a dark background or black or blue text on
A light background are good – lots of green or
red text on either a dark or light background
generally should be avoided)
Background

(Pictures are nice BUT, used as a background
It can be difficult to find a uniform text colour
So that all text is readable. It also makes the file
Size much larger)
This figure shows the font size for the legend & labels is too small.

Point to features that are relevant.

Explain axes.
Animation

Simple animation (such as a fly in) can be effective

BUT valuable time spent on special effects generally does not
Make a better presentation so, as a rule of thumb

Keep it simple
Graphics

Spot the differences?

Which makes a better graphic
For presentation and why?
Talking the Talk

(Reid, 2007)

• Use notes as little as possible
  - use slides as notes but don’t just read them out
  - look at your audience

• Memorize opening and concluding remarks

• Memorize the order of the slides

• Avoid “upspeak” and speak with authority & enthusiasm

QUESTIONS?

Audience
   Have at least one question

Speaker
   Repeat the Question (for yourself and the audience)
   Keep answers short
   If you don’t have the answer, say so, then elaborate
   and point out what is interesting in the study/results