

Really helpful tips on giving seminar talks

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Really helpful tips on giving seminar talks

Why all these presentations?

Communicate with the audience

Know your audience

Know your message

Try to inform and instruct, not to impress

You bring a *gift* to this audience

Tell us your story

Remember why you find this interesting and valuable,
and show your excitement about it.

Being aware of the story you are telling
helps to keep your presentation
coherent, focused, easy to follow,
and more memorable.

Composing and organizing your talk

IMRaD, or not

OCAR story structure
(Opening, Challenge, Action, Resolution)

Schimmel 2012, *Writing Science*
(available through u:search)

Opening and Introduction

Breathe

Opening and Introduction

Open with a question or natural segue
or memorize an opening statement

Take time to give enough background

Opening and Introduction

State the purpose or scientific question early and clearly

PowerPoint does not give talks.

Great for composing and for showing stuff

Simple, non-distracting slide format

Presenter View is useful

– helps you lead into your next slide

Always do a pre-talk tech check

This font is Verdana 36pt.

Sans serif fonts like this (Verdana 24 pt.)
are preferable to
serif fonts like this (Times).

ALL CAPS TEXT IS REALLY ANNOYING

Slides support and illustrate what you are saying

Try short, informative statements as headlines
to encourage engagement

Content supports or explains the headline statement

Slides support and illustrate what you are saying

Not too much text

But do include species names,
important terms, acronyms, etc.

- Use a bullet list if you actually mean it

Make your visuals count

Don't show everything: simple, clear, and big

Highlight the important features in a graph or figure

Make figure labels clear and informative

Tell us what we should see

Citations

Talk like you mean to be
heard and understood

Speak slowly and deliberately

Talk to the persons in the audience

Breathe

Leave a take-home message

State the purpose or scientific question early and clearly

Communicate your story to the audience

Use your slides to help

Practice explaining your work