

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

Aim 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*
(book 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

e.g. start with the overarching motivating question,
then lead into your specific research problem

Maintain continuity, and interest

Lead into each section or topic
Problem-Solution units

Practice!

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
are preferable
to serif fonts like this (e.g. Times).

ALL-CAPS TEXT IS REALLY ANNOYING

Slides support and illustrate what you are saying

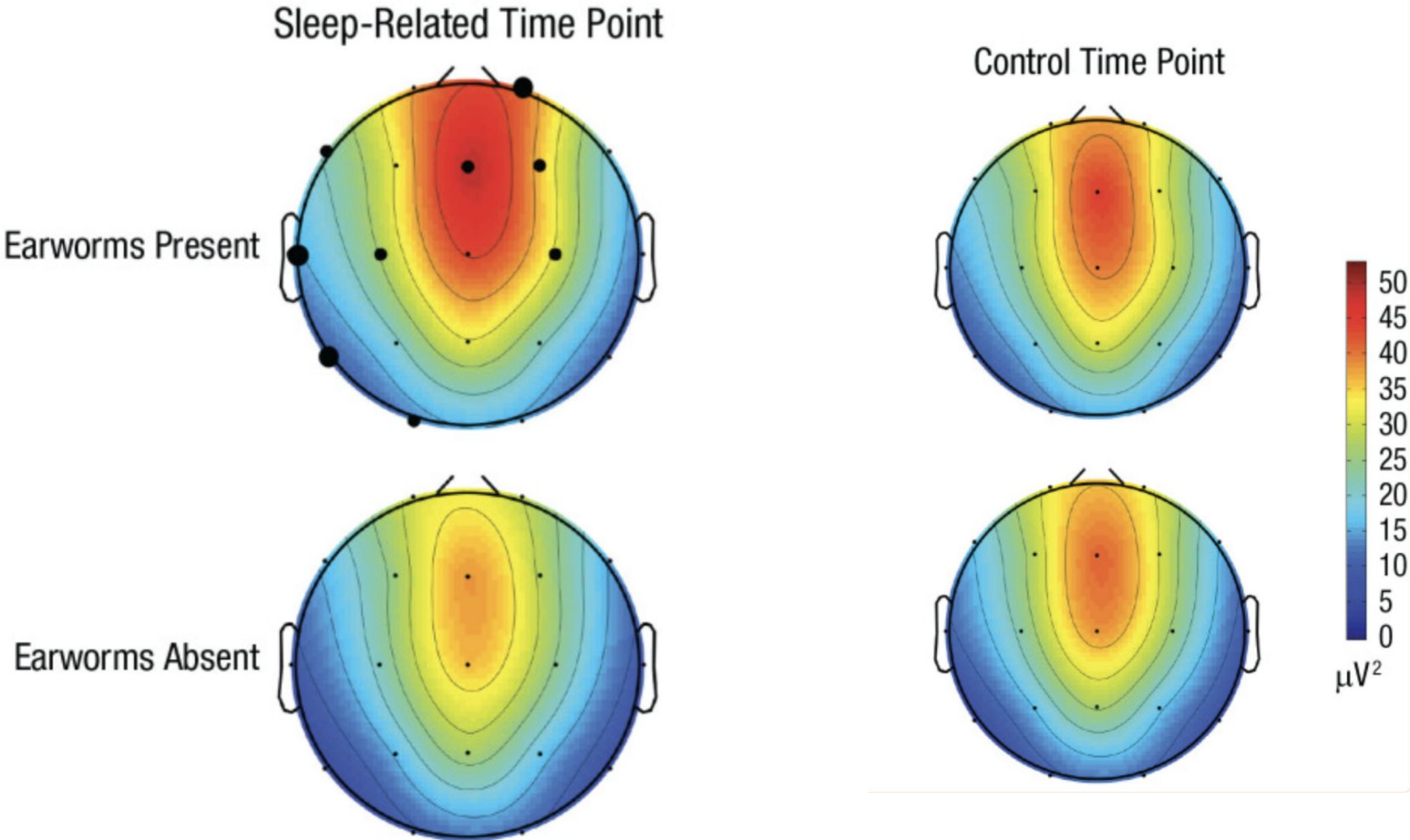
Try short, informative statements as headlines
to encourage engagement

Content supports or explains the headline statement

Make your visuals count
(lots more about this in a couple of weeks!)

Study 3: Musical processing continues during sleep

C



Slides support and illustrate what you are saying

Not too much text

- Don't use bullet lists by default

Slides support and illustrate
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Not too much text

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

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Make the last slide interesting to look at

Talk like you mean to be
heard and understood

Speak slowly and deliberately

Talk to the persons in the audience

Breathe

Science is all about questions

so take questions from the audience
as points of scientific discussion

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