

Giving a Talk You'd Want to Hear

...and Having Fun in the Process

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The Big Picture

Once Upon a Time...

Getting Technical

Living Happily Ever After

References

- ▶ *Advice on Giving a Good PowerPoint Presentation*, Joseph Gallian, <http://www.d.umn.edu/~jgallian/goodPPtalk.pdf>
- ▶ *Talking the talk: giving oral presentations about mammals for colleagues and general audiences*, R. Mark Brigham, via Dr. Byrnes
- ▶ Attending *many* talks
- ▶ Giving *many* talks

The Story

- ▶ You are telling a *story*, not presenting facts. *story*: a narrative designed to interest, amuse, or inform the hearer
- ▶ Stories have a **point** - everything in your talk should move toward that point
- ▶ What do you want us to take away from your talk?
- ▶ What is *interesting* about your work?
- ▶ What is your goal - inform, or impress?

Little Bits O' Wisdom I

- ▶ Nobody complains when a talk is shorter than advertised (except your professors if your talk is **too** short)
- ▶ Know your audience, and speak directly to them
- ▶ Choose your color scheme wisely
- ▶ People read your slides right away - keep them brief
- ▶ For that reason and many others, **DON'T READ YOUR SLIDES!**
- ▶ Unless there is a *really* good reason, have all bullet points appear at once. No sounds or flying phrases please.
- ▶ Close all apps, silence your phone (or just leave it!), disconnect from wireless if possible

Introduction? No, Invitation!

- ▶ DON'T skimp on the invitation
- ▶ Describe your work with little or no jargon so everyone understands
- ▶ Tell us what your are DOING
- ▶ (This is the only part of the talk that some of us will understand.)

The Fun Stuff!

- ▶ Find the balance between detail and clarity
- ▶ DO NOT COMPUTE IN PUBLIC
- ▶ Keep your point in mind - are you moving in this direction?
- ▶ Your hardest work may wind up on the cutting room floor

Little Bits O' Wisdom II

- ▶ No turning back! If you need a slide twice, put it in your talk twice
- ▶ Never belittle your results
- ▶ Move around and make eye contact
- ▶ PRACTICE YOUR TALK! Especially the beginning. “Well, OK...” is not a great start.
- ▶ Laser pointers can highlight nervousness; physical pointers are more stable

The Finale

- ▶ End with a bang - make your point with excitement.
- ▶ Where are you going next in your work? Let us know what your plans are.
- ▶ “I don't know” is a fine answer to a question. Don't make things up!

Thank you!

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