



INIVERSITY CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

How to give award winning presentations and impress your friends and family (or at least some good tips to help you out)

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CEDAR 2022 – Student Workshop

We are going to talk about:

# • Tips to help people hear/listen to you

- Tips to help people visualize your presentation
- Tips to help people understand your talk

Tips to get people to hear/listen to you (articulation and projection)



# The anatomy of speaking, horribly simplified

You can improve your articulation with tongue twisters.

You can improve your projection by practicing presenting while plugging your nose.

#### Tips to get people to hear/listen to you (anxiety)



If you are anxious giving talks, get lots of practice. Building confidence also helps your ability to talk.

Personally, I try to remember that the people in the audience are not there to hate you.



"Why would they come to our concert just to boo us?" – Lisa Simpson

### Tips to get people to hear/listen to you (the "mood")



When you give a presentation, you are in control of the mood. If you are formal, people will be formal. If you are enthusiastic, people will be enthusiastic.

Know your audience, and the appropriate mood you need to have.

Hannah Gadsby (in "Nanette" she discusses controlling the tension)

Do not read your slides. Paraphrase.

It shows that you actually know what you are talking about, and it makes things more dynamic.



We are going to talk about:

- Tips to help people hear/listen to you
- Tips to help people see your presentation
- Tips to help people understand your talk

Tips to get people to see your presentation (fonts)

Font sizes:

# **USE BIG FONTS!! EVEN IN FIGURES!!!**

Your smallest text should be about here

# 72, 66, 60, 54, 48, 44, 40, 36, 32, 28, 24, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 11, 10, 9



# Color-scales that go from light to dark are your friends! These scales are also useful if you want to print in black and white.



## If you use text/arrows, put a border around it



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#### Tips to get people to understand your presentation (regarding text)

I would highly recommend against using a lot of text. The reason why I recommend this is because at a certain point your audience is not really paying attention to you. They are just reading your slides, and that sort of makes you being there entirely meaningless. Like, what was the point of you presenting some fine and talented work, if really they could have just played the slides without you. Furthermore, you run the risk of people still reading your slides while you are ready to go to the next slide, and then people will lose what you are talking about. I know that this can be really difficult to NOT do when you are new to presenting scientific research, but your talks will be all the better if you do not do this. Anyways, that is why I recommend that in scientific presentations you only use....

Approximately 1-3 sentences per slide. If you have to say more, make a new slide.

There is no rule that says you need to use point-form.

Tips to get people to understand your presentation (participatory learning)

Use participatory learning when you can! Engagement is an incredibly effective learning tool (teaching being the most effective learning tool).

Tips to get people to hear/listen to you (Articulation and Projection)



The number of minutes you have is approximately the number of slides you get.

If you start to rush, or start to exceed the time limit, people start not listening to you.

It is respectful to the moderator and the other speakers to adhere to the time.



#### Summary

## A good presentation has a good flow, but it is also:

#### • heard,

- Articulate and project
- Conquer your anxiety
- Set the right mood
- Paraphrase and be dynamic

#### • seen,

- Use big fonts
- Be mindful of the colors you use
- Give borders to text and symbols
- and understood
  - Avoid "texty" presentations
  - Get audience participation
  - Do not run overtime

