

Giving a Research Talk

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Middlebury College

You will be giving a research talk:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Week 10: Mon, April 20 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 20: Upload video 2nd half of presentation• April 22: Comment on peers' 2nd half of presentation |
| Sun, April 26 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflection• Second Draft of Thesis - (a full draft) |
| Week 11: Mon, April 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final presentations (zoom, times TBD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final presentations (zoom, times TBD) |
| Sun, May 3 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflection |
| Week 12: (of May 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRFs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due this week, TBD, final Poster for poster session• Due 5/8: Final draft of thesis due to advisor by 5pm. (Advisor will provide feedback by 5/12 at noon, unless you arrange otherwise.) |



Don't let your research get stuck in a bubble



Don't let your research get stuck in a bubble

Good talks can raise impact, and get your research known

- Scientific community
- General audience

Solution:

Techniques based on

- [Trees, Maps, and Theorems](#) by Jean-Luc Doumont
- [Universal design for learning](#) principles

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Using these techniques, you can
create a great, fool-proof talk!

Outline

1. Know thy audience
2. Structure
3. Create slides
4. Present

Know Thy Audience

- Who is Audience?
- Why should they care?
- What knowledge (related to your work), will you assume the audience has?

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Example:

- CS702 students are the audience for this talk about talks.
- You care because you will have to give a talk on your research
- I am assuming you are familiar with how to create slides and have likely seen at least one academic talk before.

Exercise

- Audience: 3rd+4th year CS majors and CS professors
- Why should they care?
- What knowledge (related to your work), will you assume the audience has?

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Structure

Attention getter

Need

Task

Main message

Preview

Point 1

Transition

Point 2

Transition

⋮

Review

Conclusion

Close

Structure

Attention getter

Need

Task

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⋮

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Tailored to your audience. Takes advantage of audience's makeup to engage them in the general topic/need of your talk

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Structure

Attention getter

Need

Task

Main message

Preview

Point 1

Transition

Point 2

Transition

⋮

Review

Conclusion

Close

Explain why there is some gap between
desired situation and actual situation



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Structure

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Main message

Preview

Point 1

Transition

Point 2

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⋮

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Explain what you are doing to address the need



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Punchline/Main result

****DO NOT KEEP A SECRET****

Solution:

Design principles based on

- [Trees, Maps, and Theorems](#) by Jean-Luc Doumont
- [Universal design for learning](#) principles

Using these techniques, you can
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Outline:

- List key points
- Limit to 3 points if possible

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Transition should connect
to next point, or back to
main message

Exercise

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Remind of the main message

Talk about future work

Connect to audience

Outline

1. Know thy audience
2. Structure
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Structuring Your Talk

First, focus on
your audience

Introduce your-
self in the task



Attention getter

Need

Task

Main message

Preview

A way to lead the audience to the need efficiently

A difference between actual and desired situations

What I decided/was asked to do to address the need

The one sentence I want my audience to remember

A map of the body (ideally three points, max. five)

Point 1

Transition

Point 2

Transition

⋮

Aim for 3 main points.

Have more points? Use subpoints

Focus again on
your audience



Review

Conclusion

Close

A recap of the body, leading into the conclusion

What the above means to the audience in the end

A way to end the presentation clearly and elegantly

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Focus again on
your audience



**Think this
through before
making slides!**

Exercise

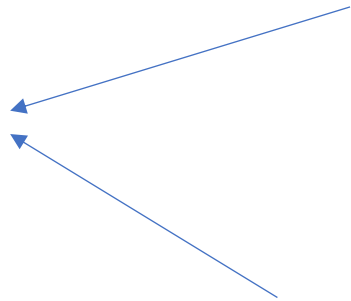
- Come up with an attention getter for your talk

Outline

1. Plan
2. Structure
3. Create slides
4. Present

Content Guidelines

Style Guidelines



Content Guidelines

- 1 idea per slide



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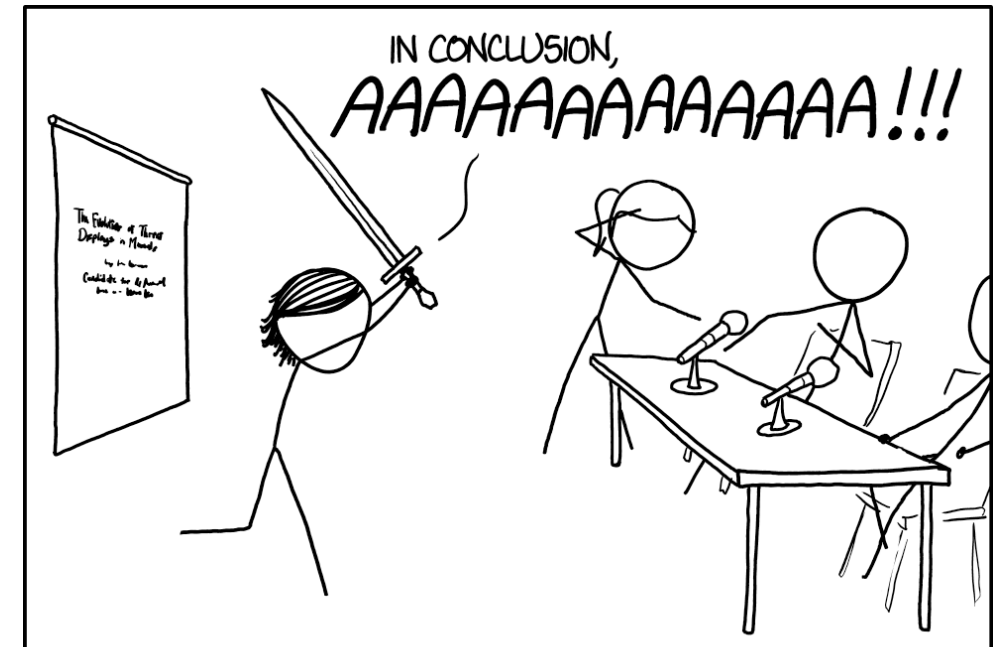
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Content Guidelines

- Meaning should be clear at a glance

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.



THE BEST THESIS DEFENSE IS A GOOD THESIS OFFENSE.

Content Guidelines

- Connect to main message

Following these guidelines to:

- Get your idea across
- Look good doing it

Style Guidelines

- To maximize accessibility:
 - Sans-serif
 - 24+ font
 - White on black

Serif Example:
Times

Outline

1. Know thy audience
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Presenting Guidelines

- To maximize accessibility:
 - Use a microphone.

Presenting Guidelines

- To maximize accessibility:
 - Use a microphone.
 - No laser pointer

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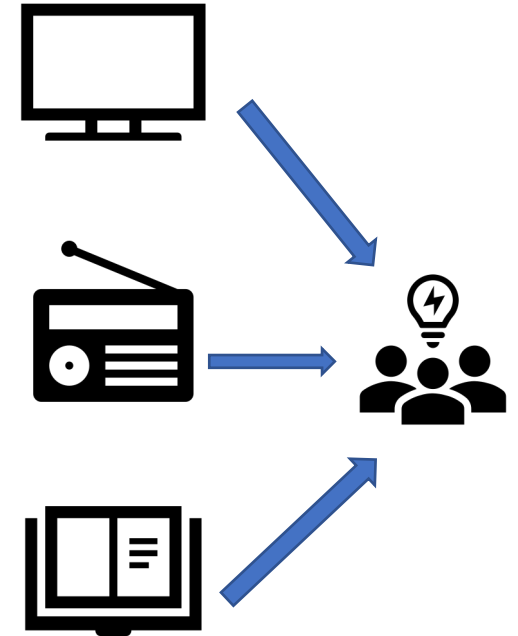
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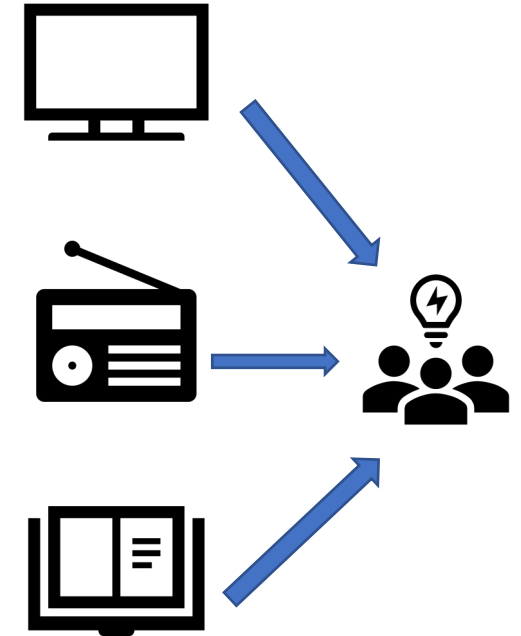
Presenting Guidelines

- To maximize understanding:
 - Communicate the same idea multiple ways.



Presenting Guidelines

- To maximize understanding:
 - Communicate the same idea multiple ways.
 - Use tone/volume/speed of voice



Presenting Guidelines

- To minimize distraction: Do not walk around
- To show seriousness: Do not lean

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End strong!!

- Return to your attention getter/need.
- Go bigger picture.
- Audience should feel they've come full circle but now understand more and think your results are awesome!

Focus again on
your audience

More confidence!

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