

An introduction to giving an effective oral scientific presentation

- **communication of your work to others is of fundamental importance**
- **in our profession there are two formal means:**
 - **written**
 - **spoken/oral**

Concepts to consider:

-you' re teaching the audience

you - expert/teacher

audience - students

-your job is to make it easy for the audience to understand

Who is your audience?

The more you make the audience “work”, the easier it is for them to “give up”

-be logical/clear

a discontinuity in the logic makes it hard for the audience to follow

-consider the audience' s perspective

-when attending a seminar, ask yourself -

what did I like

what didn' t I like

Different formats

Formal - presentation then questions

traditional - 50' format

McArdle student seminar - 30 min

scientific meeting - 10' ~12' format (economy of words)

20' format - prelim

Informal - questions/interruptions throughout

50' total but planned presentation should be less

Dos and Don'ts of Slides

Make sure everything is legible

large enough to be seen from back of room

Plain font better than fancy font

Arial, Geneva, Helvetica

Bold typeface

Be consistent in font throughout

Colors - keep it simple and consistent

Animation - keep it simple

it's not a cartoon

use it to introduce information stepwise

substance over form

Dos and Don'ts of Slides

Title/conclusion for each slide

- top
- large typeface
- if audience “loses it” during slide, serves as easy reference

Don't use complete sentences

- summary or other
- distracts audience
- use short phrases

Avoid excessive information

- include only what will be referred to

Judicious use of space

- minimize blank space
- arrangement

Dos and Don'ts of Slides

data and figures

- less information than paper
- simple
- no extraneous info - if you don't talk about, get rid of it

Seminar organization - generic

1. General statement of the issue/problem

2. Overview/outline of seminar

3. General Specific background

4. Body of seminar

Consider as a series of specific questions/experiments

- what is the question

hypothesis/model

- how was the experiments done

methods

- what are the results

results/data

- what do they mean

interpretation

5. Concluding section

- brief summary of key results and interpretations

- important unanswered questions / future directions

6. Acknowledge those who helped you

7. Responding to questions

- rephrase question in your own words

And last but not least.....

practice

practice

practice