How to give a “good” oral presentation

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Outline

1. General guidelines
2. Organising your talk
3. Designing slides
4. Giving a talk
5. Examples of slide design and organisation
Things to consider

Limit your slides

- Aim for a slide per minute
- 35 slides for a 40 minute talk
  - 5 minutes for questions

Practise your talk

- Allows you to keep to the allocated time
- Does the sequence of steps make sense

Avoid crowding the slides with many figures

- Do I need all of these figures on this one slide?

Avoid having a lot of text on the slide

Everything on the slides should be important for the conclusion
Things to consider

You are telling a story about your research

Take your listeners along with you

Organising your talk

What problem were you addressing?

What is/are your research question(s)?

How did you go about addressing the question(s) – Methods

What did you find? - Results
Designing slides

Choose a font and be consistent

Font size legibility – projector dependent

Colours should provide a good contrast
  • Text
  • Figures

Giving a talk

Have a back up of your talk
  • Preferably on a device/location other than the one you will use
  • PDF format
    • Different operating systems can render figures differently

Check slide projection
  • As above this can affect image rendering

Low awareness habits
  • Mannerisms
  • Can unwittingly distract audience
Giving a talk

Answering questions

Be confident and don’t panic
  • It is your work even if experts are listening
  • Their feedback will enhance your current and future work

Ask for clarification

Acknowledgements
  • Participants – (for population based studies)
  • Funders – without the (tax payer) money the work can’t proceed
  • Mentors
  • Colleagues
Example slide layout

Questions?
Comments?
We will do a dummy presentation and see how we can improve it

Outline

Background
Methods
Results
Conclusions
Acknowledgements
Acknowledgements

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