



# Interactive Tutorial on Giving Inaccessible, Unclear, Boring Presentations

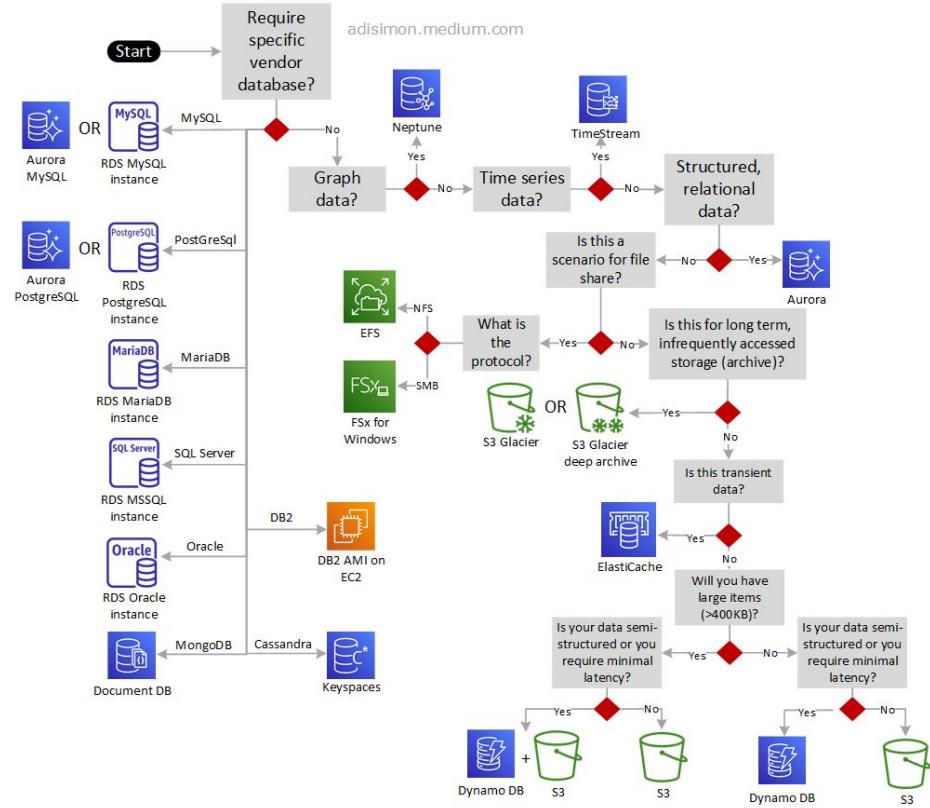
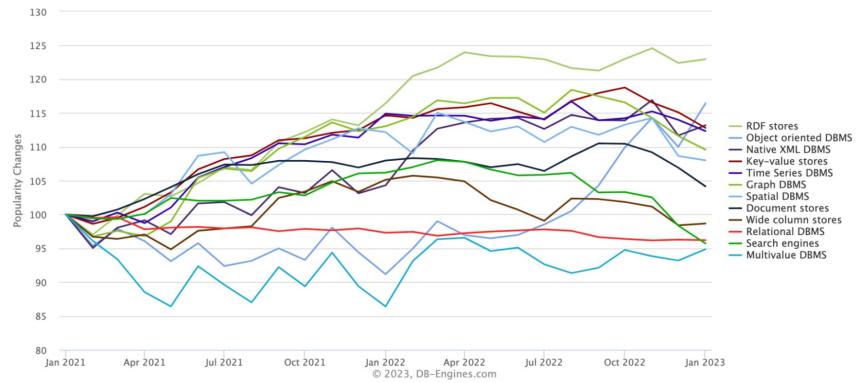
Benny Kimelfeld & Julia Stoyanovich

<https://r-ai.co/boring>



# Example: database selection

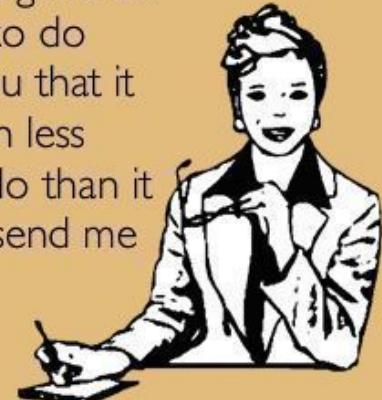
Trend of the last 24 months



# Example: time management

- Create a daily/weekly plan
  - Write down everything you want to accomplish for that day
  - Try to color code it and rank the daily tasks based on importance and urgency.
  - Give a time limit to each task.
  - Schedule time for self-care each day.  
Remember taking care of yourself is important!
- Use a calendar (either paper or electronic/mobile)
  - Tip: color coordinate whenever possible based on category or priority
  - Tip: Set up calendar reminders so you get a notification of upcoming events.

Thanks for sending me an email asking me to do something for you that it would have taken less time for you to do than it took for you to send me an email.



your eCards  
someecards.com



REUTERS

October 2018

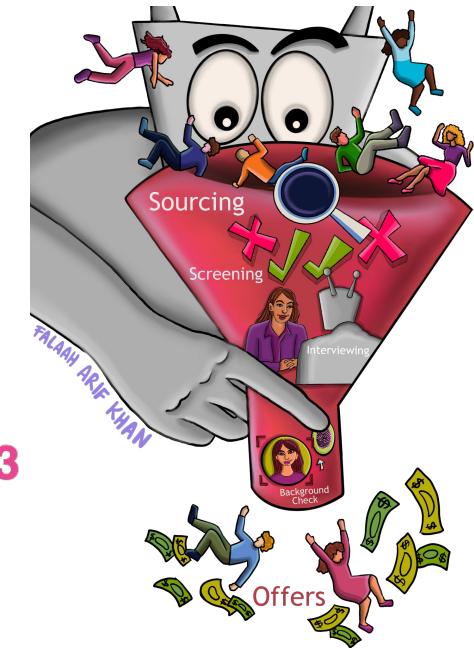
Example: AI in hiring

the guardian

July 2015

Women less likely to be shown ads for high-paid jobs on Google, study shows

Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

September 2014

Are Workplace Personality Tests Fair?

Growing Use of Tests Sparks Scrutiny Amid Questions of Effectiveness and Workplace Discrimination

MIT  
Technology Review February 2013

Racism is Poisoning Online Ad Delivery, Says Harvard Professor



Thank you, Jag!

# DEI for Data

H V Jagadish  
Univ. of Michigan

# Thank you, Jag!

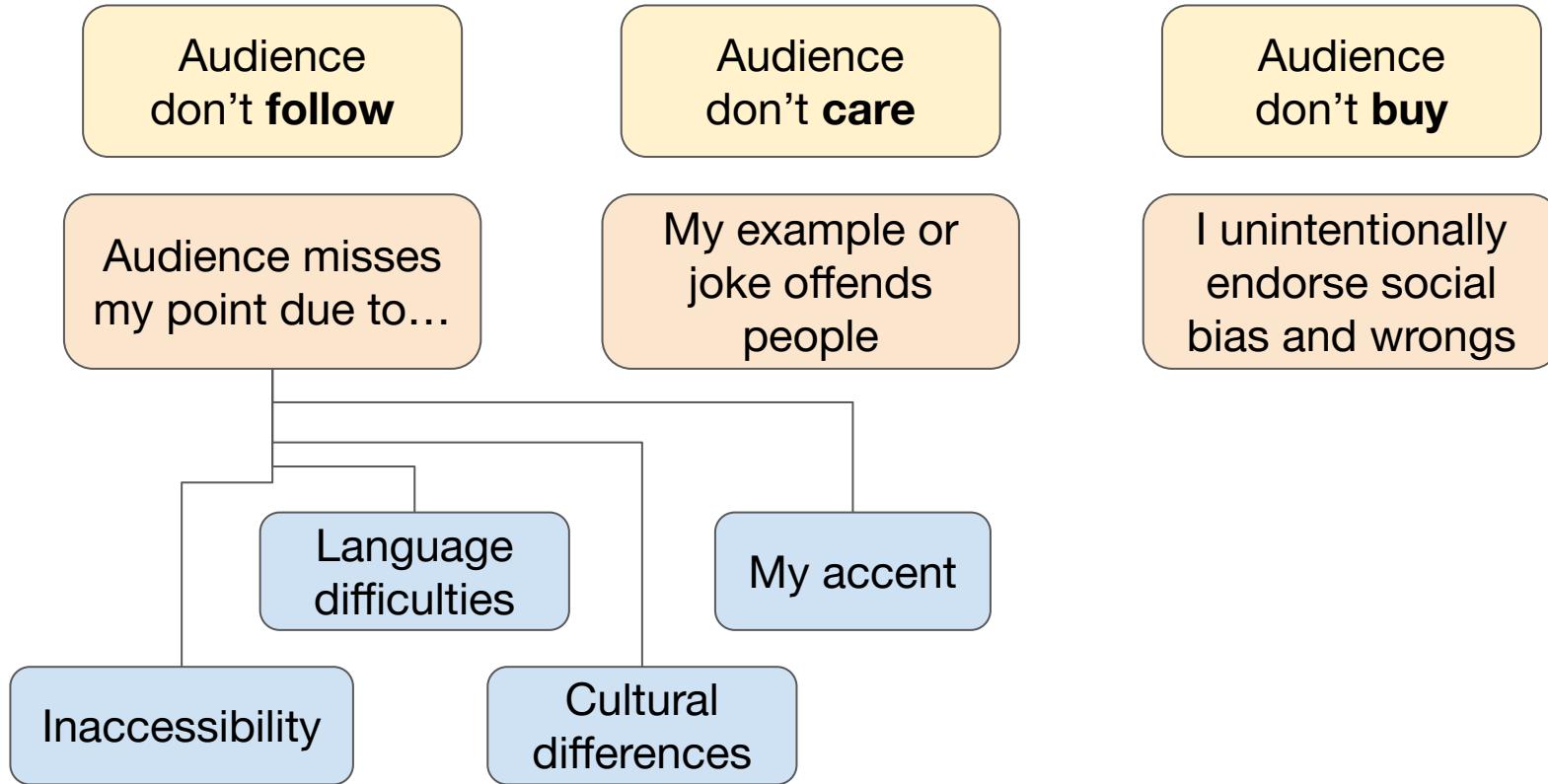
AI depends on data

Training data is used  
to learn AI model



## **Discussion:** Secrets to a bad presentation?

# Common presentation faults



# Aristo's rhetorical appeals: logos, pathos, ethos

Audience  
don't follow

- Presentation = storytelling
- **Adapt terms/notation** to best tell the story
- Punchlines, takeaways
- **Be efficient** - audience should get the story with minimum effort!

Audience  
don't care

- Explain not only what you did, but **why you chose to spend time on it** to begin with

Audience  
don't buy

- Don't assume they believe you; explain, give evidence
- **Be generous on scholar citations**



“I didn't have time to write a short letter, so I wrote a long one instead.”

— Mark Twain

# Accessibility, broadly defined

**Goal:** Making your presentation engaging and easy to understand for people with a range of abilities, cultural backgrounds, levels of expertise

**Benefits** of accessibility (in our context):

- Good for the **audience**
- Good for the **community**
- Good for **you** (the **presenter**)

# Accessibility, broadly defined (**version 2**)

**Goal:** Making your presentation engaging and easy to understand for people with a range of abilities, cultural backgrounds, levels of expertise

**Benefits** of accessibility (in our context):

- Good for **the audience**: Making your presentation accessible helps everyone understand it better
- Good for **the community**: Helps people feel included, invites them to participate in the conversation
- **Good for you (the presenter)**: if people understand it, they are more likely to cite it, reach out to you, and invite you to give talks!

# Accessibility, main insights

Concerned about **differences** in:

- hearing or vision
- learning style
- technical expertise
- cultural background or (English) language proficiency



Make it **easy** for the audience to follow your presentation!

- Keep content simple and to the point
- Convey information in multiple ways, but consistently
- Face the audience, **not** your slides
- Stay attuned to the audience

# Accessible presentations are better for everyone!



2023

**ALL ABOARD!**  
**MAKING AI EDUCATION**  
**ACCESSIBLE**

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Meghana Shanbhogue, Mona Sloane, Julia Stoyanovich

<http://r-ai.co/AllAboard>

**Accessible** (here) means:  
easy to understand for people  
with a range of physical  
abilities, cultural backgrounds,  
and levels of expertise

# What is the purpose of a conference presentation?

“Having attended hundreds of conferences and perhaps thousands of talks in my career I have found that **a great talk is one that inspires me to read the paper and want to talk to the speaker about the work.** A great talk is not about the slides, but **about the speaker.** The focus of the audience should be on the speaker, not on the slides. The slides only amplify what the speaker is saying. ...”

Richard E. Ladner

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3085564>

# Slide design: keep it simple

## Layout

- key information discernible at a glance
- design elements used minimally and intentionally
- don't put the punchline at the bottom of the slide

# Slide design: keep it simple

## Text

- minimize amount of text
- use readable fonts: Sans Serif is best
- use **bold** for emphasis — underline and *italic* change the letter shapes, making them less identifiable

# Slide design: keep it simple

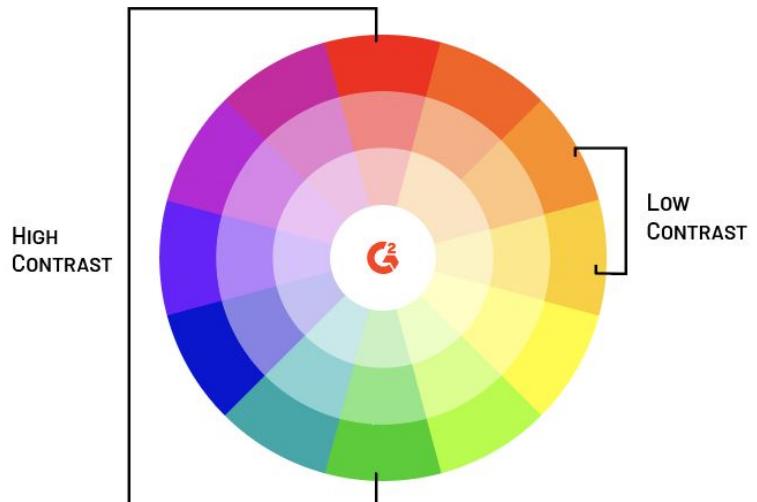
## Language

- use plain language (ChatGPT can help simplify)
- avoid specialized terms, jargon to the extent possible
- explain specialized terms and abbreviations
- once you've defined an abbreviation - use it consistently
- don't use multiple synonyms for the same technical term - pick one and stick with it

# Color and contrast

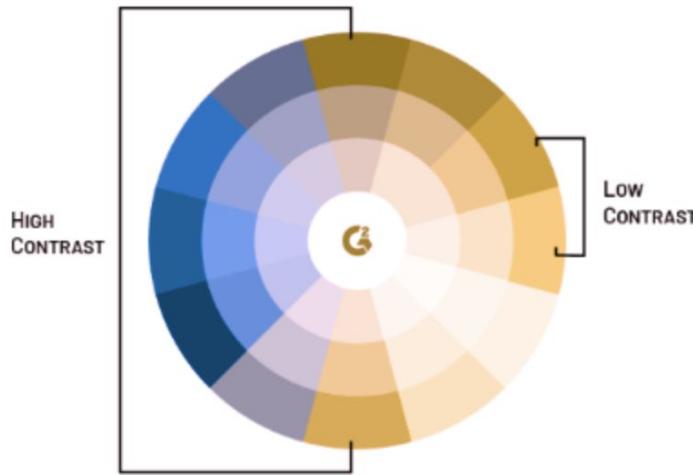
- Maintain high contrast between font color and background color for **text readability**
- Maintain high color contrast for **image & figure readability**

Contrast on the Color Wheel

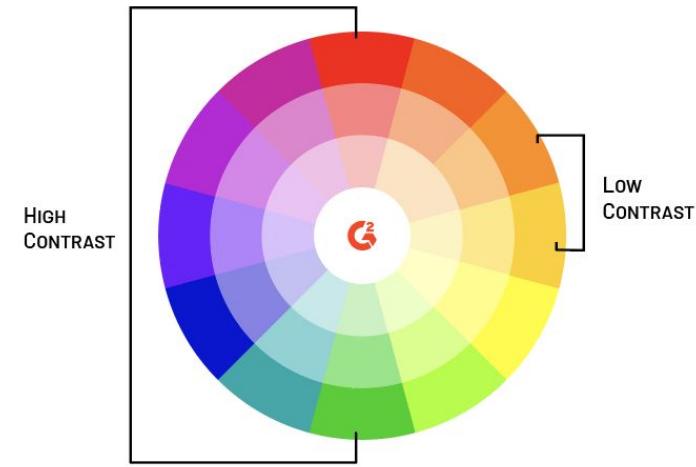


# Color and contrast: color blindness

Contrast on the Color Wheel



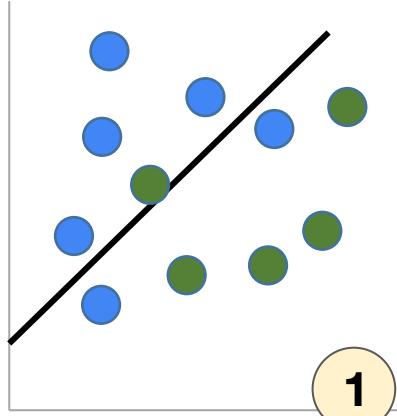
Contrast on the Color Wheel



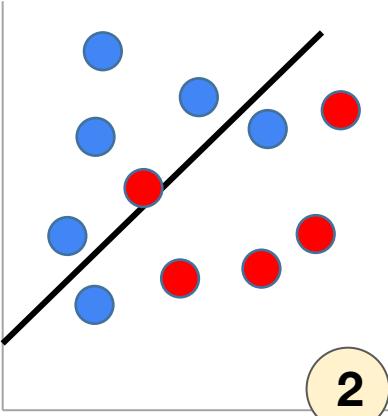
simulated for **deuteranomaly**

<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>

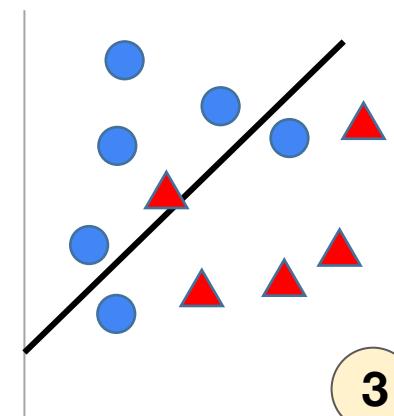
# Convey information in multiple ways



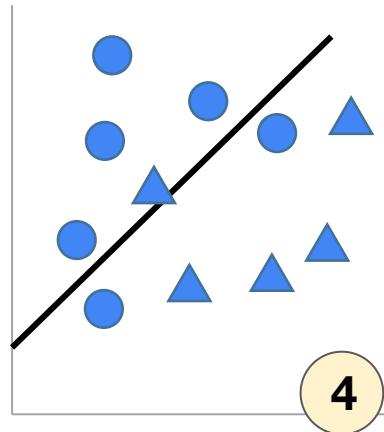
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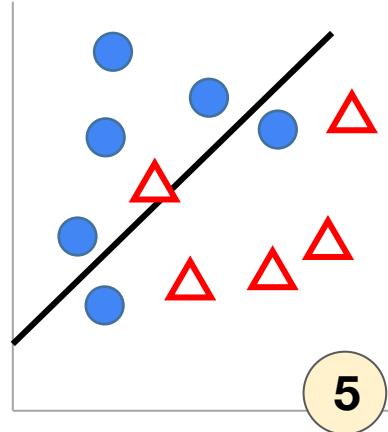
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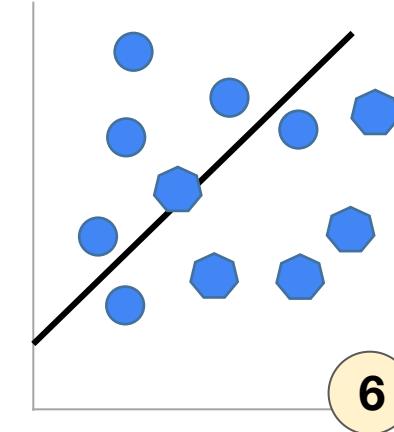
3



4



5



6

# International challenge: accent

- Different tolerance to accent variations
  - Nuances to one, disaster to another
- **A few pronunciation fixes can be dramatic**
  - Tip: run your script by text-to-speech
- And ... all tips for hearing disability

Avoid text overload, shortly highlight key messages from the verbal speech



Commonly Mispronounced Words		
Compose kuhm-pohz	Excuse ik-skyooz	Extra ek-struh
✓ kom-pohs ✗	✓ ek-skyooos ✗	✓ ek-struh ✗
Estate i-steyt	Especially i-spesh-uh-lee	Excite ik-sahyt
✓ es-steyt ✗	✓ es-pe什-uh-lee ✗	✓ ek-sahyt ✗
Position puh-zish-uhn	Potential puh-ten-shuhl	Japanese jap-uh-neeze
✓ poh-zish-uhn ✗	✓ poh-ten-shuhl ✗	✓ juh-pah-nees ✗
Second sek-uhnd	Pressure presh-uh	Ticket tik-it
✓ sec-kend ✗	✓ prez-uh ✗	✓ ti-keyt ✗
Sword sawrd	Answer an-ser	Doubt dowt
✓ swor-d ✗	✓ an-swer ✗	✓ doub-t ✗
Alzheimer's disease ahits-hai-merz	Business biz-nis	Cabin cab-in
✓ old-timer's disease ✗	✓ bid-ness ✗	✓ kay-bin ✗
Truth true-th	Opposite awp-uh-zit	Waistcoat wess-kut
✓ tru-th ✗	✓ uh-pose-it ✗	✓ waist-coat ✗

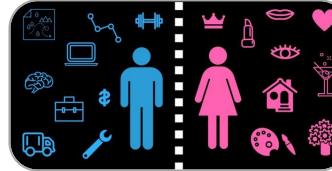
# International challenge: cultural differences

A joke/meme may be unclear outside of your country or age group. If you use it, make it short, don't rely on it to convey a critical point, apologize in advance, and explain.

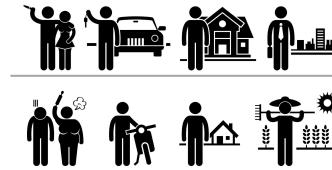


# Think about representation

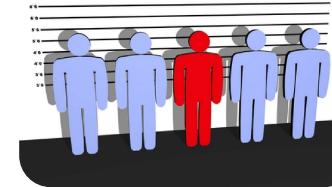
- Stereotype, prejudice, offensive assumption, ...
  - May depend on culture/country
- Where? examples, visuals, terms, genderial pronouns, ...



Who is the expert lead?  
Who assists?



Who is the more resourceful?



Who is the malicious user?  
Who protects?

**Be aware! Avoid!**

# Representation: software developers



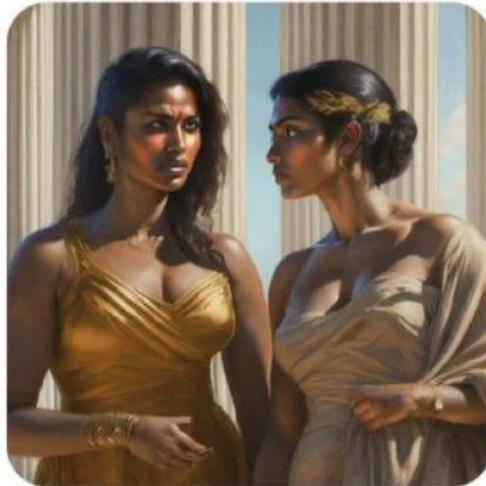
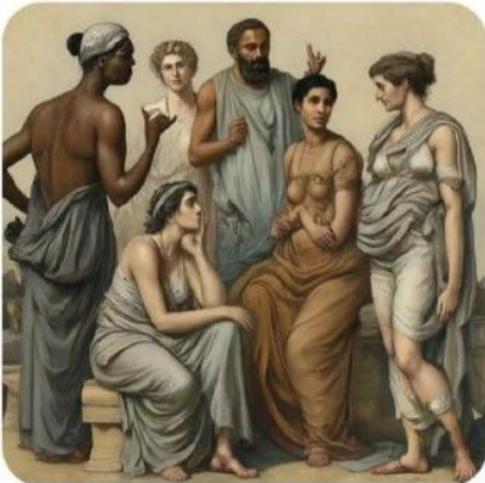
# Representation: software developers



# Representation: software developers



# Representation: ancient Greek philosophers :)



# Sensitive triggers



Human rights

Ethnicity & race

Sexual orientation

Disabilities (terminology)

Ethnic tensions

Violent conflicts

Family values

Politics

Abortion

Religious activities

Military apps

Our content may trigger sensitive matters

- Examples, visuals, terminology, analogies, ...
- Group-specific (international)
  - Home conference ≠ intl. conference!
- **Be aware** of the sensitivities!
  - Consult with your intl. colleagues?
- Avoid potential offences/conflicts when possible

# Conclusions

Making your presentation engaging and easy to understand for people with a range of abilities, cultural backgrounds, levels of expertise benefits everyone!

- Good for the **audience**
- Good for the **community**
- Good for **you** (the **presenter**)

# Additional resources

- “All Aboard! Making AI education accessible” by the NYU Center for Responsible AI <http://r-ai.co/AllAboard>
- Coblis (Color blindness simulator)  
<https://www.color-blindness.com/coblis-color-blindness-simulator/>
- “Making your conference talk accessible” by Richard Ladner  
<http://homes.cs.washington.edu/~ladner/MakingYourTalkAccessible.pdf>
- “Accessible presentation guide” by ACM SIGACCESS  
<https://www.sigaccess.org/welcome-to-sigaccess/resources/accessible-presentation-guide/>

# Additional resources

- “Inclusive design for accessible presentations” by Allison Ravenhall  
<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/11/inclusive-design-accessible-presentations/>
- “Checklist for giving an inclusive presentation” by Christian Blind Mission  
<https://participation.cbm.org/supporting-material/checklists/checklist-inclusive-presentations>
- “How to lie with statistics” (1954) by Darrell Huff
- “How to make presentations & talks more accessible and inclusive” by Hey Georgie <https://hey.georgie.nu/accessible-talks/>
- “5 ways to make your online talks inclusive and accessible” by Lizzie Cass-Maran <https://cass-maran.com/inclusive-talks/>



Thank you!

Benny Kimelfeld

Julia Stoyanovich