Answers to Guide 10

* 5 Keys to great non-verbal communication
  + Do these recommendations correlate with effective engagement in presentations/lectures/sermons you’ve attended recently?
    - Some of the seminar lectures for CS-195/295 have had speakers who followed these elements
    - Eye contact: looked at the audience.
    - Voice fluctuation: non-monotonous tone.
    - Position in the room: didn’t just stand in place the whole time.
    - Facial expressions: looked animated about the subject.
    - Hand gestures: emphasized points with hand/arm/body motions.
  + Can you think of effective speakers who violate any of these recommendations?
    - If there’s technical malfunctions, sometimes they have no choice but to use a mouse to click through a digital presentation.
* Powerpoint is Evil
  + Is Tufte for or against Powerpoint? Why or Why not?
    - He is against Microsoft Powerpoint because he believes it substitutes content for appearances. He believes that slides divorce the context and relationship of the overall content of the presentation into sequential drudgery that loses audience interest and makes it difficult to comprehend the message being presented. He believes it should supplement not supplant your presentation.
  + What presentation tool would you use for your preliminary design presentations if you could use anything (or nothing) at all?
    - I would personally use Adobe InDesign to draft documentation and export to PDF document if I wanted extreme levels of control over appearances and formatting.
    - Microsoft Powerpoint is still a simple, easy, and fast way of providing visuals for a presentation. (can also print slides out as a reference during speech)
  + Would you prefer it if this course had used traditional slideware? Why or why not?
    - It can sometimes be hard to read a Professor’s handwriting if it’s not like computer print.
    - I am used to Professor Adams’ slide lecture material from CS-214, CS-112.
    - I do not mind being shown material on various different websites through a browser as part of a lecture.
* In Defense of PowerPoint
  + How do good speakers structure their presentations? How do they start? What material do they include?
    - They start with something interesting, like an example, in order to get the audience interested in the talk.
    - Then they provide only the relevant background information instead of the entire history of the subject.
    - The speaker should present their own views and leave the rest for the Q & A session at the end.
    - The content should be moderated to presenting only the critical points as the listener/audience cannot absorb too much information at once.
  + What documents should a speaker produce for a presentation?
    - Personal notes – seen only by the speaker and used as remind of the key points and topics to be covered.
    - Illustrative slides – display major points and help motivate the listener; should add not distract from the speech.
    - Handouts – put references, data, and appendices to the talk; present detailed information so the reader can further analyze and study.
  + What form of class presentation would be best for this course?
    - Use of the two projector screens in the Gold and Maroon labs to display whatever digital content necessary to supplement the speech and presentation.
    - Perhaps a speaker system to add some sound when presenting the Android app when the user clicks on buttons, swipes, etc.
* Now that you’ve heard both sides of the slideware debate, what do you think?
  + Personally, if I had all the time in the world, with no deadlines to worry about, I could see myself taking the time to draft aesthetically pleasing visual presentation materials using any variety of software. However, in reality, I would probably end up resorting to the use of Microsoft Powerpoint as it is simple, fast, and easy. I would also print out notecards in order to remind myself of the sequential order of topics and points I would like to present. Otherwise, the rest would be dependent on my psychological state of mind and whether I manage to use any non-verbal communication techniques in an effective manner.
* Five Things We Need to Know About Technological Change
  + What are Postman’s five ideas?
    - Idea 1: We always pay a price for technology, culturally.
    - Idea 2: There are always winners and losers in technological change, and the winners try to persuade the losers that they are actually winners.
    - Idea 3: There is an embedded epistemological, political, or social prejudice in every great technology.
    - Idea 4: Technological change is ecological, not additive, or it changes everything and not just one aspect of human life.
    - Idea 5: Technology tends to become mythic or perceived as part of the natural order of things, and thus tends to control our lives more than we think or is good for us.
  + Do you agree with him?
    - Yes, I would say I agree with him. It is far too easy to see the status quo as the natural order and not desire change that may be disruptive to what we know. I myself cannot imagine a life without computers and am all for the improvement of technology that allows us to create better, faster, more powerful computers.