

# Project Presentations

Tell a story, don't read a list.

# All Good Talks Tell a Story

- Introduce characters (rabbit, fox)
- Describe an important problem (fox wants to eat rabbit)
- Relate events that resolve the problem (rabbit tells fox about thesis)
- A few examples (rabbit tells wolf, ...)
- Draw a general conclusion that is supported by your story (thesis doesn't matter)

# Introduction

- Introduce characters: motivate your work
  - Why the problem is interesting and important
  - Place your work in context: How is it different from what others have done?
- Teaser for your results: why should we listen to the rest of the talk?
  - Don't need a full outline, but let audience know enough so they want to stay
  - Unlike Rabbit story, suspense is not good

# Content

- Explain what you did:
  - Don't be comprehensive – big picture
  - Use pictures, 1-2 examples, etc.
- Convey **one** technical nugget:
  - Show one neat concrete thing that came out of your work
- Analysis:
  - Did your work solve the problem?
  - What are the important results of your work?

# Conclusion

- Summarize your project with *one key point*. Something your audience didn't know or believe before your presentation.
- If your audience remembers **one thing** from your talk, you have succeeded!

# Can you do all this in 20 minutes?

- Advertisers pay \$2.5M for 30 seconds during Superbowl – they must be pretty sure they can tell a compelling story in that time.
- Seinfeld episode is 22 minutes long
- Make your points directly, avoid unnecessary details
- **Organize** your presentation

# Some Specific Advice

- Average around 2 minutes per slide
  - No more than 15 slides total
- Your target audience is other students
- Use pictures
- Use humor (but only if its relevant)
- **Don't put more text than this on any of your slides!**

# Final Words

- Don't just make up your slides, think about what you will say with them.
- Practice:
  - Without an audience
  - With classmates
  - In front of friends not familiar with your project