

How to Give a Killer Talk

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- **Know your audience!**
- **Be excited** about your topic *and* your talk: your **enthusiasm** should be contagious. You should like your own talk!

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- **Be a Storyteller, Not a Lecturer:** Don't assume that your audience knows your field. Tell the story of your science: identify **the big picture** backdrop, your specific **research questions**, how you answer those questions, and **what we have learned** from it.

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- **Prioritize Clarity:** Your goal is to never lose the audience attention, so make an effort to **be clear** and have a **simple narrative arc** to your talk. Crucial to know your audience, define notation, and observe audience reaction.

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- **Be wary of jokes** and metaphors or sarcasm: If a joke is poorly timed or if you misjudge an audience, you risk alienating them. Only use jokes if you are an expert or you are close to the audience.

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Think about what you can take out not what you can add.
- Here is an example of an overloaded slide from a nice YouTube video (URL) by Susan McConnell on how to give a good science talk (watch at least the concluding segment at home!).

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- Step 4: Practice, run by a colleague/mentor, and anticipate questions and prepare answers, maybe as final slides.

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- Discussion: PowerPoint/keynote vs beamer (movies?)