Ted Talks Foundations Discussion

After reading the foundations section, I was shocked at how easy Chris Anderson made giving a TED Talk seem. I really liked his point that anyone can give a good TED Talk as long as they have an idea worth sharing. I appreciated that he briefly touched on how hard finding this sort of an idea can be at times and the steps that the reader can take to find their idea. I am interested to know how many TED Talks end up falling into the four styles that he recommends avoiding. I also like the inclusion of Sir Ken Robinson’s structure for speeches. After looking at that five-pronged approach, it seems simple enough to excel at speaking. It is also a tool that I can immediately begin using in presentations. I find the concept of a throughline very interesting and daunting simultaneously. It is a cornerstone of sorts for a good TED Talk, but the formulation of it is what is intimidating. I am interested in the concepts of how to take the speech, cut it in half, then cut it in half again, then proceed to fully explain everything in detail. The passage of meeting the audience where they are really stood out to me. My undergraduate degree is in computer science, and at times that makes it difficult for me to do a technical presentation to a non-technical audience. This awareness of knowing that the audience can only appreciate what you are saying if they understand you are going to really change the way that I present my technical research and other things in my field.