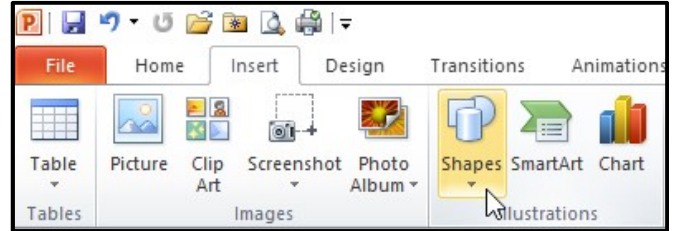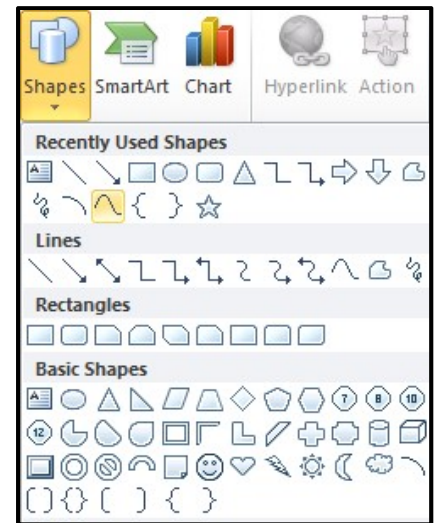# How to Draw Text Along a Curve in PowerPoint

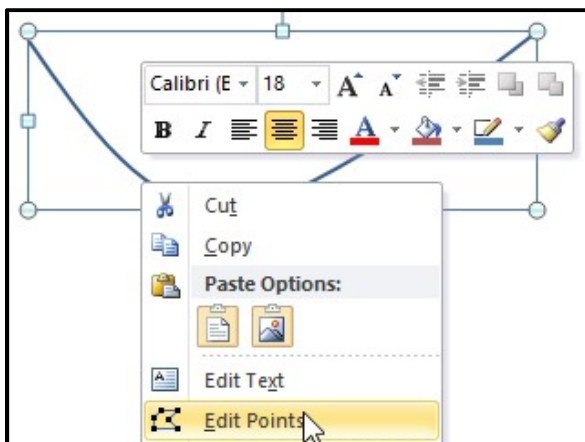## Dave Ackmann – Gateway NMRA – 27 March, 2021

To me it is counterintuitive, but to draw text along a curve, you must first draw the curve. Next to the Home tab, click on the Insert Tab, and then on the Shapes Box.
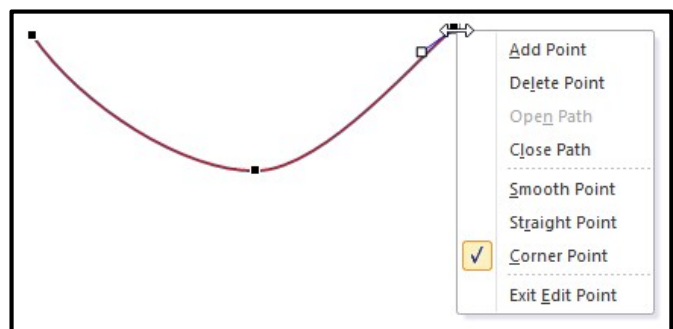
A Pulldown Menu will appear with a myriad of shapes. I like to use the curly line on the second row, third from the left. Click anywhere on the page to start the curve, move to another place and click the mouse, then to a third place and click again (you must have at least 3 points to create a curve). Then double click and the curved line is created. If you don't like the shape, right click on it, and a dropdown menu will appear, so click on "Edit Points". Click on a point to sel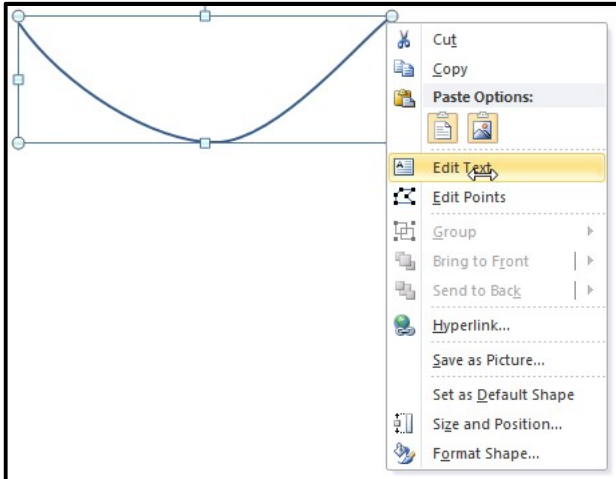ect it, and then drag it to the desired location. If you wish, you can click on either white box sprouting from the point and move the box to alter the slope of the line. When you are done editing points, just move the mouse off the object and click into empty space.
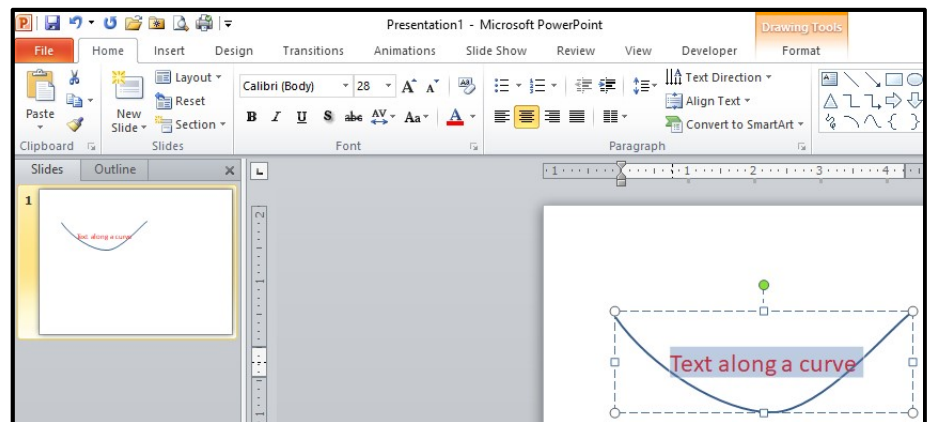
But that's not all you can do when editing points. There are options to Add Points, Delete Point, Open Path (this cuts the line in two), or Close Path (to turn a line into a closed shape). When you are done editing points, just click on Exit Edit Points.
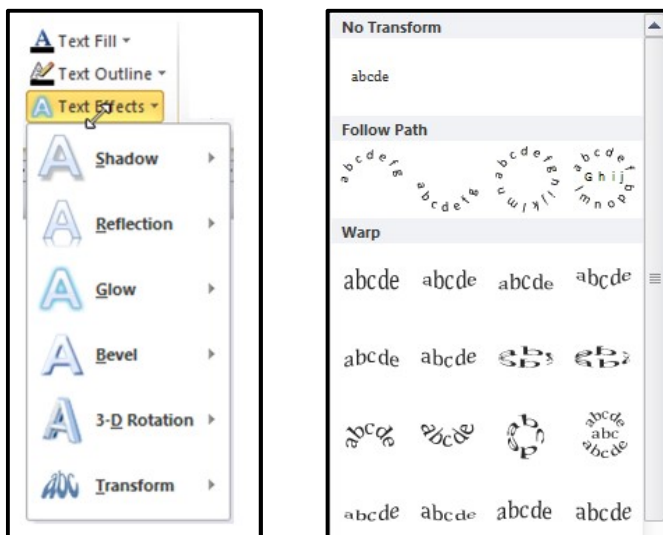
Now that we have a curve, we need to add text to it. We right click on the shape and select the Edit Text menu item. We click on it and enter the desired text. Unfortunately, the text will be entered in white, and since the background is white, it will not be visible. No Problem. We just select the text with a Click-Hold-Drag operation, then right-click to open the Font menu. We change the color and the text is now visible. The font size and other attributes can be changed here as well.

But the text is still not following the curve. With the object still selected, take look at the tabs at the top of the page. See the one labeled Drawing Tools? See the word Format right under Drawing Tools? The word "Format" is actually an active button, so click on "Format".

When you click on "Format", down and to the right you will see something labeled "Text Effects", so click on it. From the drop down Menu, click on "Transform". Up will pop a whole bunch of text effects, and for a beginner, I recommend clicking on one of the "Follow Path" options, generally the first or second.. The amount of text curvature is a function of the size of the box containing the curve, so stretch the box until the curvature fits your needs.

That's it. Give it a try.