

Presentation and Demo

- Follow the Pecha-kucha method, find guidelines below
- Slight modification, 30 seconds per each slide allowed
- Use the presentation template provided in the webpage
- 10 mins overall, 20 slides presentation length
- 5 minutes for demonstration of the project results
- 5 minutes for open questions and answers

Pecha-kucha: A Sign of the Changing Times

Pecha-kucha is a global presentation phenomenon started in 2003 by two Tokyo-based expatriate architects Mark Dytham and Astrid Klein. (*Pecha kucha* is Japanese for chatter.) Pecha-kucha is an example of the changing attitudes toward presentation and a wonderfully creative and unconventional way “to do PowerPoint.” The pecha-kucha method of presentation design and delivery is very simple. You must use 20 slides, each shown for 20 seconds, as you tell your story in sync with the visuals. That’s 6 minutes and 40 seconds. Slides advance automatically and when you’re done you’re done. That’s it. Sit down. The objective of these simple but tight restraints is to keep the presentations brief and focused and to give more people a chance to present in a single night.

Pecha-kucha Nights are held in over 80 cities from Amsterdam and Auckland to Venice and Vienna. The pecha-kucha nights in Tokyo are held in a hip multimedia space and the atmosphere on the night I attended was a cross between a cool user group meeting and a popular night club.

If nothing else, the pecha-kucha method is good training and good practice. Everyone should try pecha-kucha; it’s a good exercise for getting your story down even if you do not use the method exactly for your own live talk. It doesn’t matter whether or not you can implement the pecha-kucha “20x20 6:40” method exactly in your own company or school, but the spirit behind it and the concept of “restrictions as liberators” can be applied to most any presentation situation.

The method makes going deep difficult. But if there is a good discussion after a pecha-kucha type of presentation then it may work well even inside an organization. I can imagine having college students give this kind of presentation about their research followed by deeper questioning and probing by the instructor and class. Which would be more difficult for a student and a better indication of their knowledge: a 45 minute recycled and typical PowerPoint presentation, or a tight 6:40 presentation followed by 30 minutes of probing questions and discussion? On the other hand, if you can’t tell the essence of your story in less than seven minutes, then you probably shouldn’t be presenting anyway.

Checkout the Pecha Kucha Web site to find a Pecha Kucha Night near you.

www.pecha-kucha.org

