

# How to give an academic presentation

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Fabrizio Montesi

<fmontesi@imada.sdu.dk>



# **Structure of this presentation**

General considerations to keep always in mind.

Technical points.

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# **Context**

You have to give an academic presentation to some peers.

# **Your Objective**

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# Your Objective

- To convey an idea.
- Yes, only one idea.
- It is the **only** thing you want to do.
- **Everything** in your presentation goes towards your objective.

# Dogma 1

- The objective of a presentation is to convey an idea.

# Conveying an idea

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- Conveying an idea involves two parties: you and your audience.
- You want to **transfer** your idea to your audience.
- Ask yourself: “Will they talk about it after my presentation?”

# Audience

- The presentation is not about you.
- You know the idea already!
- It is all about your audience.

# Dogma 2

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- **NO** notes on slides! (Bring your own notes if you want)
- **SIMPLE** slides without lots of text.
- Use Big Fonts!



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• Use Big Fonts!

Use size differences in the slide with care (attention stealing).

# Preparation is everything

- Giving a presentation can make you stressed.
- Do not worry, it is a good sign showing that you care! :-)
- Rehearse your presentation at least twice.

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General considerations to keep always in mind.

Technical points.

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- Motivations
- In this work...
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions and Future work
- Q&A

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- Title
- Authors
- Affiliation
- Acknowledgements, ...

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# Motivations

- Optionally starts with some background info.
- Explain what problem you want to solve.
- Why is the problem relevant?
- Optionally ends with a slide that clearly states the objective with a one-liner (could be a research question).

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# In this work...

- A slide explaining your contributions.
- This is where you use the excitement that the motivations build up!
- In general, remember not to have a flat tone during the whole presentation. A presentation should have a rhythm (that may go along with excitement).

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# Methodology

- Explain the technique. Focus on the big picture!
- Do not bury the audience under the details (zzZZzzZ effect).
- Highlight some details only if they are really interesting.

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# Results

- Explain your results (sometimes mixed with methodology).
- Why are they relevant?
- Go back to the initial problem. Have you solved it?

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# Conclusions and Future work

- Explain your results (sometimes mixed with methodology).
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# Questions and Answers

- The presentation ends by thanking the audience for listening.
- The audience claps (ritual).
- Remember to save at least 5 minutes for questions from the audience.
- Tip: put pictures in the Q&A slide that recall your content.

# Time (only tentative, adjust to taste)

- When planning, imagine: 1 slide = 1 minute

- First slide: title, authors, affiliation, ...

- Motivations

- In this work...

~6 mins

- Methodology

- Results

~14 mins

- Conclusions and Future work

5 mins

- Q&A

5 mins

# Pictures

- Every good presentation should have pictures, not text!
- But I took advice from here...

<http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~markhill/conference-talk.html#badtalk>

**Q&A**