How to Give a Good Talk

Luca Beale
Table 1: Perfectly understandable data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>x</th>
<th>y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.234</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3e-1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.1 × 10^{-2}</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.000041</td>
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- Dijkstra sez: ‘A picture may be worth a thousand words, but a table is worth a thousand pictures.’
  - or maybe not, but who’s counting?
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Dont ever let anyone tell you to cut stuff out of you’re talk because how will the audience know what your talking about if you dont say it explicitly?

- forget what i said before, the audience needs everything spellled out for them
- if you dont tell them exactly why you’re smart and your ideas are smart, how will they know to praise You?
- Don’t forget to include as much technical detail as possible — you cant let the audience leave with the wrong conclusion! For example, did you know that I spent exactly 5 hours, 42 minutes and 38 seconds on this slide alone? In fact, I was stationed at the following coordinates (lat = 1, long = 2), using a 2013 MacBook Pro with an 11” screen and Retina display that I bought in 2014 with money that I earned from helping my mom pull weeds.
- run on sentences are totally ok because honestly there’s only so much real estate on a given slide so you really need to pack in all the info that you can because otherwise the audience wont know that you did a lot of work and that you know like soo much stuff and what’s the point of working so much if people don’t know you worked so much?
- it’s ok to read stuff directly off your slides! that way the audience knows that you’re saying the same things the slides do
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Go for Style, not substance

• Obviously, you’re not a graphic designer

• But that doesn’t mean you can’t have style (what’s more stylish than cursive?)

• Most of the work you put into your presentation should go into how pretty it looks

• Do you like this color? It’s called “Essence of Franklin the Turtle”

• I was actually supposed to put an important plot here but I forgot
YOU’LL NEVER GET EVERYONE, SO NEVER CHANGE YOUR TALK TO FIT THE LEVEL OF YOUR AUDIENCE

• We all understand this, right?
Don’t let the audience get distracted

• Don’t make eye contact — this invites engagement with the audience

• speak softly, so everyone can concentrate on your text, not your words

  • don’t be excitable or funny!

• laser pointers help you to focus the eyes of the audience - use them all the time!!!
Preparation makes for bad talks

• Click to add text
No need to introduce slides

• your audience should be paying attention anyway!
References aren’t important

- But, here’s a good one that has pretty much all the answers you need: really good database