

How to Present Paper or Research Idea

General Advice:

- Good ideas can be said in simple terms. But most ideas cannot be completely explained in short time. In fact the audience does not want to know all details. Instead they want to be impressed, have some motivation to read more and feel like they understand economics better.
- Good ideas sound simple and yet contain puzzles that initially sound difficult to solve.

Some Details

- Get dressed nicely (no positive or negative eye catchers), keep hands out of pockets, walk around, look your audience into the eyes, look at different people, use hands, talk slowly, make pauses, use remote slide flipper, get your slides uploaded in computer well before talk starts.
- Only talk about what is written on slide, so if you want to say more then write more. Do not put material on the slide that you do not talk about.
- Do not write entire sentences on slides, only abbreviate and use bullet points.
- Do not read your talk off of some script, do not memorize any sentence apart possibly for the first two sentences in order to reduce nervousness.
- Makes slides legible, do not overload, make font sufficiently big, make sure that figures are very clear
- Gist of main result should be mentioned three times: at beginning in motivation (“In this talk I will show you why ...”), when presenting the result itself (“This is my main finding. This result can be interpreted as ...”) and in the conclusion (“Now we understand why ...”)
- Monitor your time very carefully. Never run over time, stopping early is not a bad sign. You need to be enthusiastic about what you want to tell but smart enough to be able to tell it within the allotted time and not behave like a gibbering idiot.
- Practice your talk in front of real audience before the real presentation.
- Make sure that you do not have too many slides, 6-10 for 10 minutes, 8-12 for 15 minutes, 15-25 for 60 minutes, max 35 for longer talks.
- Indicate clearly by the title of the slide what you are talking about.
- Software: some form of tex (eg scientific workplace) or power point (without catchy effects)

6 necessary slide titles

- 1) First slide has only title of the paper, your name, affiliation and date: introduce yourself by telling audience your name and then read the title. You may then add one of two sentences if necessary to lead you into the talk.
- 2) Motivation: what are open questions, what are problems with existing approaches, why problem of interest
- 3) Main Finding: what is new, at most 2 results, side results can be explained later.
- 4) Related Literature: not a summary of all the literature, but the demonstration of what is the closest related work and why it is different from yours
- 5) Details: No need to describe everything, just pick some special aspects that you find important.

6) Conclusion: not a summary of the paper but a type of appraisal of the project, can remind reader of the main result put in the light of how it looks after it is understood.

(Other titles for other slides possible, eg Discussion. For a 10 minute talk about proposed research the titles stay the same, the content turns into projected or desired content)