How to give the perfect scientific presentation

1. **Don't pre-load your presentation**

   The 5 minutes you spend fumbling with your USB stick will establish you as a real pro.

2. Act as if you've never used Powerpoint

Pro tip: Look at the screen cluelessly until someone shows you how to start the presentation, or scroll through your slides without entering presentation mode.

3. Never check your presentation beforehand

There's nothing more amusing than missing images and jumbled formatting.

Pro tip: Just mumble "it didn't look like that before" and you'll have your audience rolling in the aisles.

4. Cram as much onto each slide as you can

Combining small fonts, multiple plots, and half a dozen images works especially well.

Pro tip: The less people understand your slides, the more they'll respect you.

5. Use tables with lots of data

If you've got it, flaunt it – no-one cares if they can't make sense of your data.

Pro tip: the more significant figures you use, the smarter you'll look.

6. Make your plots really complex

The more incomprehensible your plots are, the more of an expert you'll appear.

Pro tip: Make your plot really small, and try putting 6 - 8 plots on one slide.

7. Use bullets – as many as possible

Don't worry that no-one will be able to read them. The important thing is that they had the chance.

Pro tip: Bullets avoid time making slides that could be better spent in the lab.

8. Apologize for unreadable slides

This helps build rapport with your audience.

Pro tip: Use phrases like "I know you can't read this, but …"

9. Remember, everyone loves a video fail

Embedding videos that don't play is the mark of a true scientist.

Pro tip: Clicking the video repeatedly while looking clueless makes you look especially smart.

10. Use as many slides as possible

Remember: the quality of your science is measured in slides per minute, not on content.

Pro tip: Prepare a generic 500-slide deck and use this wherever you go.

11. Embrace obfuscation

The less understandable you are, the smarter people will think you are.

12. Over-run your time

This is the mark of a truly accomplished scientist.

Pro tip: Don't give a damn about anyone following you.

Disclaimer: Follow these 12 simple rules, and you'll be presenting like a pro scientist in no time. You'll also look a complete ass.