

# 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 tips: 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.