

How to Give a Good Presentation

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Presentation Requirements

- Only 15 minutes
- 10-11 Slides
- Both partners must share in the presentation
- Practice it!!!

Organization

- Slide 0: Title + authors' names
- Slides 1-2: Research question + Main mechanism (hypothesis)
- Slide 3: Brief review of literature
- Slides 4-6: Approach (method + data + model)
- Slides 7-9: Results (graphs + tables + interpretation)
- Slide 10: Shortcomings
- Slide 11: Taking stock (Summarize your message)

General Recommendations

- Use wide slides (don't waste the screen's real state!)
- Not too much text (don't go over one line)
- Nothing flashy: Text in bullets works fine
- Always go for readability: Large font size, short sentences
- Tables + Figures: Label variables + Highlight relevant aspects
- **Do not overfill** one slide by adding more and more text or trying to get too many graphs or tables and explanation and then squeezing your ideas into the last remaining space!

Use Transitions: Slide Sections

(transition slides don't count for the slide limit)

Slides 1-2: Research Question

- What is your question?
- What is the relevant context? Why do we care?
 - You can cite some statistic that makes your point
- State your main mechanism or hypothesis
 - The economics of your question
- What will we get from your results?

Slide 3: Related Literature

- Focus on most relevant papers
- Don't summarize each paper individually (unless it is really important)
 - You can give a sentence with the main takeaway from literature (cites)
- State how you contribute or follow in sub-bullet
 - Ex: We adopt their econometric approach // We verify results in Canada
 - Emphasize what is new!

Slides 4-6: Approach

- Start with economic mechanisms
 - What is the underlying behavior/response of agents?
 - What is the identification challenge? Why is the answer not obvious?
- Go next economic model (if necessary)
- What data are you using?
 - What variables? At what level? How many observations?
- Empirical approach: State regression + How does it answer question?

Slides 7-9: Results

- Implement your approach
 - Show table or graph with results
- Highlight relevant portions of your graphs/tables!
- How should we interpret your result?
- What is the answer to your question?

Slide 10: Shortcomings

- Things you could not do but wanted to (ex: did not observe all variables)
- Caveats and shortcoming of what you did (ex: identification issues)
- Be honest!
 - Opportunity to show you understand your research

Slide 11: Taking Stock

- What did you set out to do?
- How did you do it?
- What did you find?

Presentation Tips

Make Your Slides Look Good

- Prepare the slides with enough time
- Too much text is really bad!
- Use colors carefully: 3 colors ideal, 4 colors max
 - One for writing, one for emphasis, one for de-emphasizing
- Spend time formatting graphs and tables (do not paste tables)
 - Crucial: Axis + Font Size + Variable Names
- Look at other people's slides

Giving the Presentation

- Speak clearly, enunciate words, try to make “eye” contact
- Watch use of hands (and feet... not move too much)
- Better to use highlighted text or other visual cues to emphasize
- Practice is your best ally for a good presentation



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