

How to Present a Scientific Paper

After you read through the paper and gain a good understanding, it's time to prepare your PowerPoint Presentation.

Format

The format of your presentation should follow the format of the paper

1. Introduction
 - a. Background (~ 2 slides)
 - i. What is the bigger picture that this study addresses? Why do we care? What relevant info is needed for us to understand the study?
 - b. Hypothesis (1 slide)
 - i. What is the main question the authors want to address? What is the main statement the authors are trying to support?
2. Methods (~2 slides)
 - a. What is the general approach used AND what is the rationale behind using it?
3. Results
 - a. 1 – 2 figures / slide
 - i. What is the main result of each figure (this should be either in the title or as a simple statement on the slide)
 - b. Summary (1 slide)
 - i. Recap the main findings in a few lines
4. Discussion (2 slides)
 - a. Did the results support the hypothesis?
 - b. What are the major implications of the study? The take home message?
 - c. What questions do you have about the way the study was done or the data interpreted?
 - d. What are future directions? (Important to include this)

Slide Design Tips

- Slide heading: gives the main point of the slide (1-2 lines)
 - Should be informative or tell the main result of the figure presented
- Think of slides as being “outlines” or listing main points
- Font and Size: use ≥ 28 pt for body of text, use ≥ 36 pt fonts for title
- Color: always contrast background and content; use carefully and professionally
- Figures: use high resolution, limit number of figures per slide, crop when necessary
 - Include no more than 2 figures per slide, unless necessary for comparison
- Words: avoid “wordy” slides, ≤ 3 bullet points per slide at 1-2 lines each
- Animation: use to help the reader follow main points, not to detract attention
- 1 slide should take 1 – 2 minutes to present

TOOLKIT CREDITS:

Developed by Angela Gee, (Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College, CA) and Martin Diaz,(Los Angeles Trade Tech Community College , CA) with support by the rest of the C-DEBI Collaborative Toolkit Team.

WEBSITE:

http://www.coexploration.org/C-DEBI/toolkits_science_papers.html