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 approached 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