

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Australian
National
University

ANU Academic Skills



Australian
National
University

*The Australian National University
acknowledges, celebrates and pays respect to
the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people of the
Canberra region and to all First Nations
Australians on whose traditional lands we meet
and work, and whose cultures are among the
oldest continuing cultures in human history.*

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students
will be able to:

- 01 *Outline* the features of a successful oral presentation
- 02 *Apply* these features to practice activities based on their own research
- 03 *Develop* their own oral presentation

Getting it wrong...



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSGqp4-bZQY>

Let's chat

What are the features of an effective oral presentation?



Image created using Microsoft Copilot. Prompt "Create an image of a young person giving a presentation at an academic conference, facing the audience".

Features of a successful presentation

1. Clear key message
2. Logical structure
3. Good visual aids
4. Successful delivery

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Features of a successful presentation

1. Clear key message
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Clear key message/purpose

What do you think of the following key messages?

- » I will discuss emerging fields of research and look at whether or not they can be predicted.
- » This research investigates ways to predict emerging fields of research.
- » This research produces a novel method for predicting emerging fields of research.

What's your key message?

What message do you want your audience to take away?



How can this be expressed clearly and concisely?

Example: My research investigates the effects of X on Y and explains its relevance to the field of x and broader applications outside of the discipline.

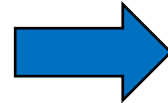
Building confidence #1

Introduce yourself and your key message

Good morning/afternoon

I'm ... from ...

My research investigates the effects of X on Y and explains its relevance to the field of x and broader applications outside of the discipline.



Over to you

Example based on: [Student Research Conference: 2024 Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Criteria](#), p4.

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Structuring your presentation

Scope

- What information is needed to support your key message?
- Time limit?



Audience

- Who are they?
- What do they want to know?
- What will they understand?

Structuring your presentation

Introduction

- ✓ • Self-introduction
- [Context/background/hook]
- ✓ • Key message
- Signposting

Body

Structured according to your key message and signposting e.g.:

- Point 1
- Point 2
- Point 3

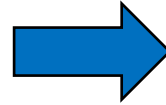
Conclusion

- Bring together all the main points
- Restate your key message
- Implication or so what?

Building confidence #2

Signposting

In this presentation, I will first explain the rationale for my research on A. Next, I will outline my research methodology of B. Then, I will describe and explain my results C & D and why they lead to the important conclusion, E.



Over to you

- Practice your full introduction
- How long is it?

Example based on: [Student Research Conference: 2024 Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Criteria](#), p4.

Signpost throughout

In this presentation, I will first explain the rationale for my research on A. Next, I will outline my research methodology of B. Then, I will describe and explain my results C & D and why they lead to the important conclusion that E.

- *Let me start with my Aims...*
- *Moving onto Methodology....*
- *Now, I will focus on the results. There were 2 main findings. The first...
The second... .*
- *Why does this matter?*

Time limit

100 - 150 words per minute

Experiment

- Time and record yourself
- Significantly more or less – why?



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Let's chat



Think back to slide presentations you've seen or created yourself:

- What slide design features do you like? Why?
- What slide design features do you not like? Why?



Visual aids
should support
your spoken
message

Avoiding design pitfalls

- Headings
- Bullets
- Images
- Charts / graphs / tables

Avoiding pitfalls - Headings

- State/support key message
- Signpost structure
- Extremely concise

Avoiding pitfalls - Bullets

Pros

- Boost presenter's confidence
- Outline – presenter and audience

Cons

- Potentially boring
- Over-reliance on bullets
- Too much text is overwhelming

How to do well

- Identify main message
- Use as few words as possible
- Support key message – don't just repeat
- Smart Art + animations

“As a guide, aim to have fewer than 20 words on each PowerPoint slide or Prezi screen.”

Example based on: [Student Research Conference: 2024 Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation Criteria](#), p5.

How to present:

Engage your audience

Keep things simple - the one message rule

Help audience to understand your material

Choose visual aids that support your message

MIC SKILL

CARY AC

ANU

Avoiding pitfalls - Images



Pros

Add appeal and emotion

More memorable

Reinforce key message

Cons

May be hard to find appropriate & high-quality images

More preparation time required

How to do well

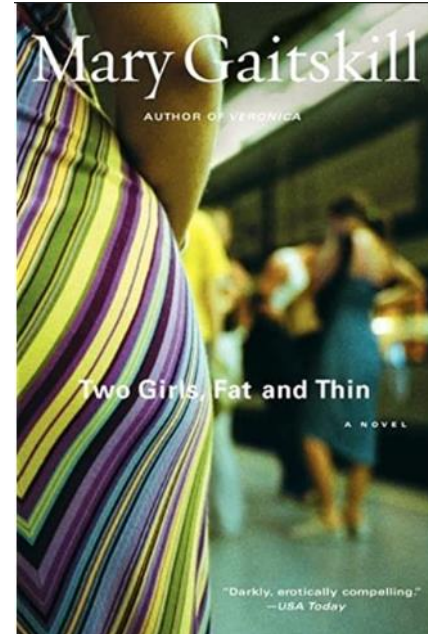
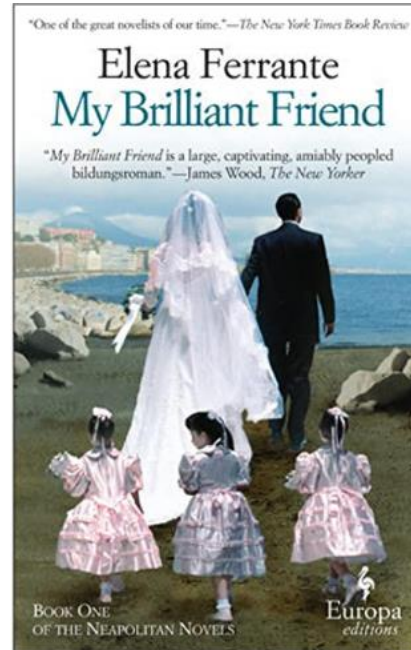
Key message only

Find high-quality images that match your message

Correctly reference/attribute

Female friendship

- ▶ a repeated conscious choice
- ▶ but a limited choice
- ▶ often looks hopefully toward a better future
- ▶ but not without contradiction or pain



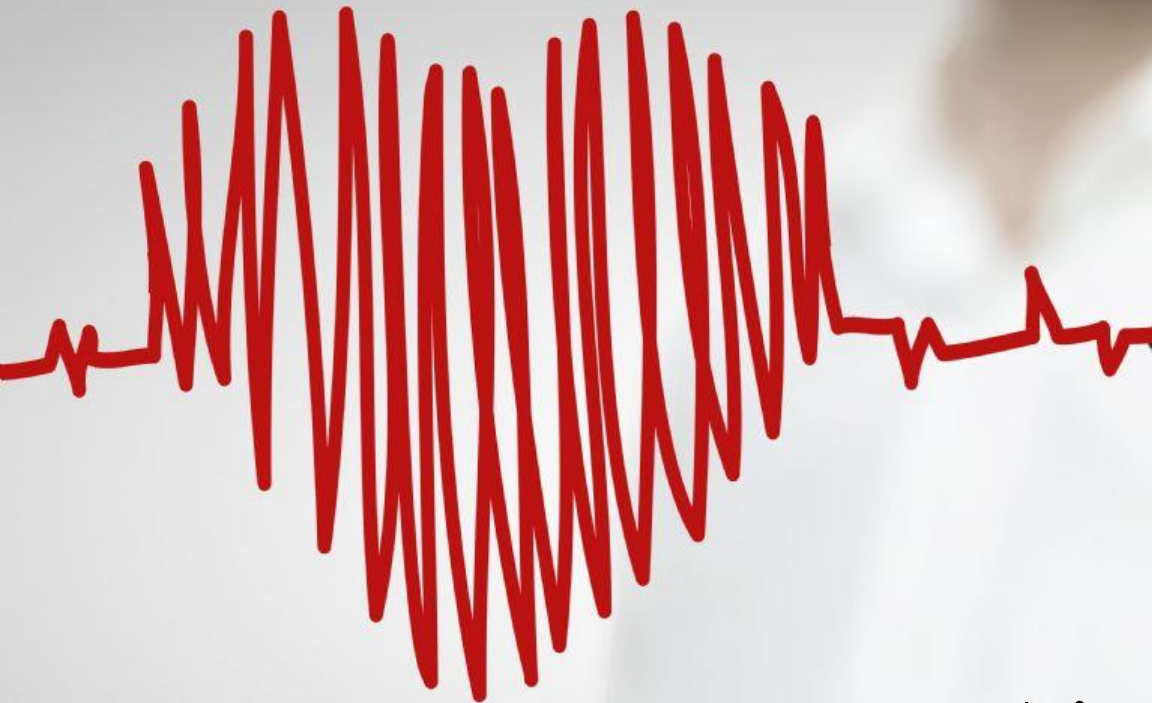
Malaria

- 2016 - 216 million cases
- 2016 - 445 thousand deaths
- Every 2 minutes a child dies of malaria

WHO World Malaria Report 2017







No. 1 in
Australia
Top 4% OECD

Finding good images

- Google images
- Stock images, Flickr, Pexels, MorgueFile, Unsplash, Canva
- Take your own
- Create your own e.g. Microsoft Copilot

Take care with attribution and licensing – Academic Integrity rules apply

Avoiding pitfalls – Graphs, charts, tables

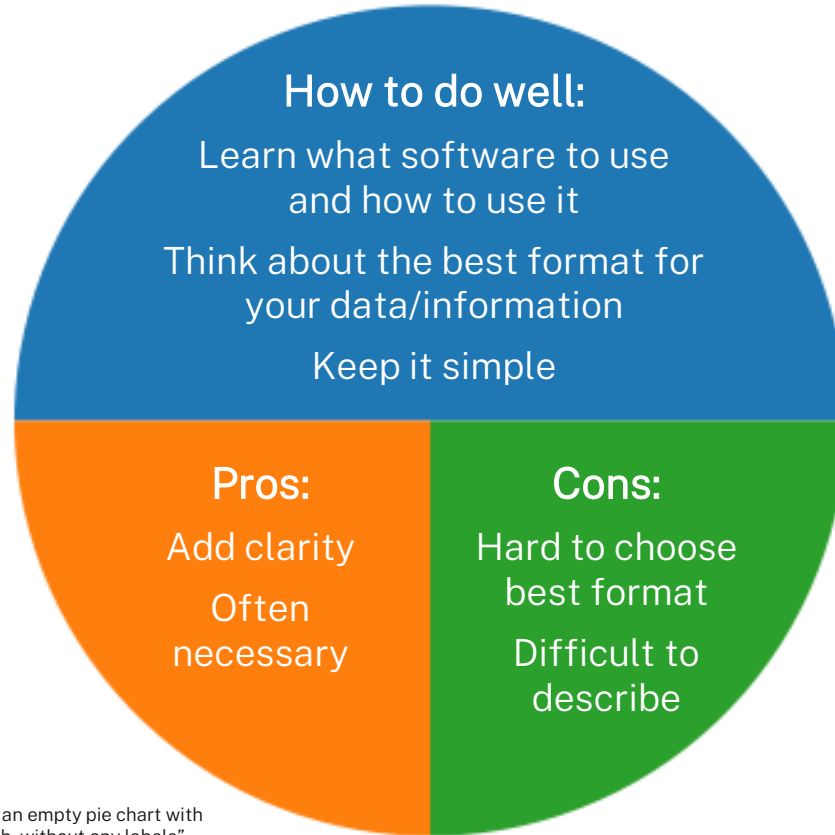
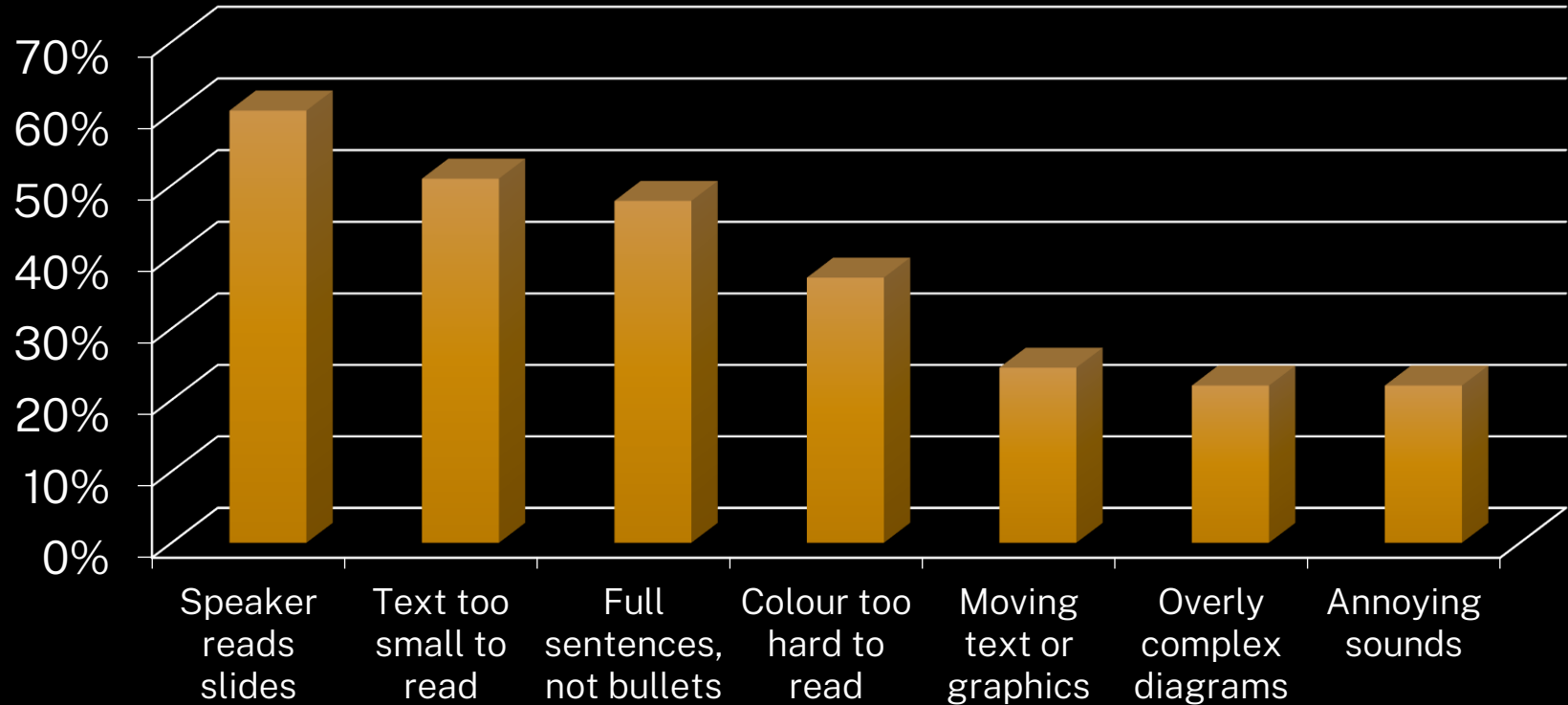


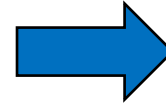
Image created using Microsoft Copilot. Prompt “Create an empty pie chart with three segments: one at 50% and two others at 25% each, without any labels”.

Things that annoy the audience



Building confidence #3

Finding/creating images



Over to you

*Find or create an image that you might use in your conference presentation (or poster) – **5 minutes***

*Explain to your partner/group why you have chosen this image – **2 minutes per person***

e.g. how it is related to your key message, where you might use it in your presentation

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Let's chat

What is challenging about delivering presentations?

What solution(s) can you propose to each challenge you identify?



Delivery strategies

Rehearse
and time

Record and
consider

Script or
cue cards

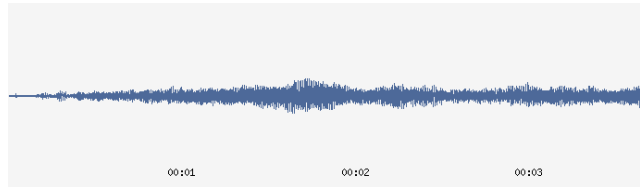
Rapport
building
strategies

Be ready for
Q&A

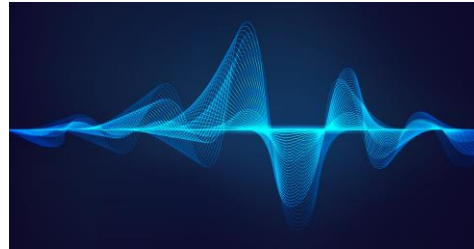
Delivery features



Discombobulated
or confused?



versus



<https://soundcamp.org/instruments/loops/kotamo-monotone-sound-wav>
<https://info.teledynamics.com/blog/demystifying-codecs-part-1-digitizing-the-human-voice>



Image created using Microsoft Copilot. Prompt
“Create an image of a person giving a presentation
with their back to the audience, looking at slides”.



Handling questions



- Plan for question time
- Tell audience when/how you will take questions
- Be prepared to write down questions to help you understand and respond better
- It's fine to answer with “That’s a great question! Thank you. I don’t know, but will get back to you after my paper”.

Edit for effectiveness and accuracy

- Check for:
 - » clarity of message
 - » unnecessary text
 - » effective images
 - » grammatical and spelling errors
 - » layout – headings, spacing, margins
 - » use of animations

SRC Oral Presentation Judging Criteria

Scale:

1 ←-----→ 5

Criteria:

Excellent

1. Contains terminology and explains content in a way that can be understood by a general university audience
2. Clearly states the research question, problem, or issue that was investigated
3. Provides relevant context needed to understand the importance of the research topic/issue
4. Indicates what was found and its significance
5. Is delivered clearly, concisely and within the time limit

For more information, see :

- [SRC website](#) materials
 - » Workshop 2: From Paper to Presentation
 - » Workshop 3: Poster presentation

OVER TO YOU



THANK YOU

Contact Us

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