Giving a talk

Simon D. Angus
Department of Economics
Monash University

simon.angus@monash.edu
The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
• Content - esp. Figures
• Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
• Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
Overview

The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
• Content - esp. Figures
• Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
• Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
The school of presentations ...
Overview

The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
  • Content - esp. Figures
  • Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
  • Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
Audience | who are they?
- Level of interest?
- Technical ability?
- Reason they will be attending?
- Opportunity for other contact/communication (pre- / post-)?
- Diversity …
Before the day ...

Materials | do you need them?
• Powerpoint ------- Chalk + Talk
• Hand-outs?
• Read, Remember, Elaborate or 'Wing-it'

Maximally Static
All 'content' pre-prepared

Maximally Dynamic
All 'content' generated on the fly

PowerPoint
PowerPoint w Transitions
Tablet PCs
Mixed
Chalk + Talk
OHP transparencies

Software | options
• Powerpoint (both)
• Keynote (Mac only)
• OmniGraffle (Mac only)
• New tools: 'Prezi' - http://prezi.com/
• Gold-class: LaTeX-Beamer

Choices | 'dos/donts'
• fonts (sans vs. serif)
• colours (green/red)
• black (blue?) background
• structure / page-counts?

Consistent style!!!
The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

- Slides + Materials, Software
- Content - esp. Figures
- Structure

Delivery

- Body language, Movement
- Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
Figures & Results | the heart of the talk?
- Normally, main reason for giving the talk
  Start with them, structure around them ..

Software | options again …
Plotting:
- MATLAB (any)
- Origin (PC)
- R (any)
- …

Annotations / illustrations
- OmniGraffle (mac)
- Illustrator (both)
- InkScape (unix)
- ...

[raster vs. vector graphics …]
$P_t = \frac{K}{1 + e^{a-bt}}$

DB, Steam Engines
United States
\[ a = 3.16 \]
\[ b = 0.0512 \]
\[ adj \ R^2 = 0.983 \]

Cumulative Publications (normalised)

United States

Innovation: 1775 (UK)

Total SE in US Manufacturing, Atack et al. (1980)
\[ a = 6.33 \]
\[ b = 0.0910 \]
Assume saturation in US at 1900

Enforce K=1

Year
Technical figures/results: example

\[ P_t = \frac{K}{1 + e^{a-bt}} \]

**United States**

DB, Steam Engines
United States
\( a = 3.16 \)
\( b = 0.0512 \)
adj \( R^2 = 0.983 \)

**Total SE in US Manufacturing,**
Atack et al. (1980)
\( a = 6.33 \)
\( b = 0.0910 \)
Assume saturation in US at 1900

Enforce \( K=1 \)
The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
• Content - esp. Figures
• Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
• Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
Mapping the Industrial Revolution

A 'big-data' approach to inventions, innovation & technology in Europe & the US: 1750-1950

Simon D. Angus & Andrew Newnham

Department of Economics
Monash University
Mapping the Industrial Revolution

A 'big-data' approach to inventions, innovation & technology in Europe & the US: 1750-1950

Simon D. Angus & Andrew Newnham

Department of Economics
Monash University

High-current Copper-brush Dynamo (1820)

Diesel Locomotive (1892)

Bessemer converter (Thomas Steel, 1855)

Telegraphy (Telephone, 1861)

Thonet Furniture (1842)
A Structure | (not the only one)
1. Title
2. Motivations
3. Related work / findings
4. Methods / Strategy
5. Results
6. Conclusions / Further work

Title | Question or claim?
- "Did the carbon tax raise prices?"
- "Complexity is linked to scope not scale"
- (The carbon tax and prices in Australia)

Motivations | Two questions
- Why is this an interesting problem? (e.g. In how many ways can you assemble an Ikea book-shelf?)
- Why is this an important problem? (e.g. Will the Maldives be habitable in 2050?)

Could be:
- data needing a better theory
- theory (predictions) needing test with data
- a long held paradox
- conjecture to test/verify/refute
- recent events prompting new questions ...
- recent findings prompting new questions ...
Structuring the talk

**A Structure** | (not the only one)
---
1. Title
2. Motivations
3. Related work / findings
4. Methods / Strategy
5. Results
6. Conclusions / Further work

**Related work / findings** | not a 'lit review'
This is a **curated** list, not just a list
- Structure by **findings** (not by author)

**Methods / Strategy** | highlights
*Aim:*
1. To show that you used the appropriate tool
2. To show that you have done the right checks/validation (hygiene)

**Results** | best till last?
*Sometimes to prove validity*
*Then to support your claims*
*(not a shopping list of figures …)*
*Every figure should have a reason to be there.*

**Conclusions** | simple
*Direct, clear*
*Don't over-claim (!)*
*Be humble*
*Show avenues for further work*
**Answering questions | BE NICE**

**Will I answer it?**

- Do I cover it later? ('great question! I'll come to that in a minute')
- Is it a distraction? ('interesting idea, but let's keep focussed for now')
- Is it of general interest? (if not, 'let's talk over a beer…')

**Can I answer it?**

- **Yes:** clear, succinct, be nice.
- **No:** be honest.

> It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. (Ecc 7:5)

> A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. (Prov 13:1)

> The way of a fool is right in his own eyes but a wise man listens to advice. (Prov 12:15)

> A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. (Prov 17:10)

**Optional extras?**

**Talk outline?**

- repeat
- recurring
- on each slide (page numbers)
  *(can help deal with anxieties of the audience)*

**The Spoiler/headline**

- setting expectations, punchy, no climax?

>'Background'

- esp. if important event/history/location/detail affects your work
Overview

The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
• Content - esp. Figures
• Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
• Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
What is the focus of the presentation?

Body Language | physicality & stage-presence

- **Stance**: Slouch vs. Strong
- **Hands**: small, medium, big gestures
- **Walk(ies)**: slide (stop) or you (go)
- **Barriers**: lecterns, tables …
- **Eyes**: up …

Voice | work in progress …

**Modulation = emphasis = interest**

- **Volume**
- **Phrasing / pauses**
- **Speed**
- **Inflection**: (ladies be careful)

You | self-awareness

- Do you speed up when nervous?
- Do you have a nervous tick? (coins, hair …)
- What do you repeat?
- (time for a trusted friend …)
Overview

The long road of Presentation Skills

Before the day

• Slides + Materials, Software
• Content - esp. Figures
• Structure

Delivery

• Body language, Movement
• Voice, Speed

Case studies for discussion
Rachel Pike | TED: The Science behind a climate headline
http://www.ted.com/talks/rachel_pike_the_science_behind_a_climate_headline.html

Davide Damberger | TED: When NGOs fail
http://www.ted.com/talks/david_damberger_what_happens_when_an_ngo_admits_failure.html

(the late) Steve Jobs | Launch of the iPhone
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZYlhShD2oQ
Appendices | Very useful

- Keep your # slides down
- Anticipate questions and answer with a slide (shows care for audience + attention to detail)
- Technical figures, or proofs, or …
- List of references
- (for hand-outs?)