

Effective Presentation Slides for College Lectures

• 1 Slides ≠ Presentaton

• 1.1 Brainstorm: Suggestions for possible visual explanations for your course

• 1.2 Don't let your slides become your presentation!

- student comments on PowerPoint
- problem summary: lecturers write down everything they will say on their slides
slides have lots of text, go by quickly, can't tell what's most important
- write out your notes/outline for the lecture
separate from your presentation slides
- identify the key takeaway points.
3-5 main points in a 50 min lecture
- make slides, leveraging the visual medium when appropriate
- Result: fewer slides that reinforce main points
helps students know what's important

• 2 How to Design Presentation Slides

• 2.1 Assertion-Evidence format

research from learning science shows that people remember more when text is combined with pictures.

- Consists of a full-sentence assertion
meaning of sentences can be clearer than noun phrase and bullets
- and a supporting graphic

• 2.2 Examples of Slide redesigns

- steps in a process
 - peer observation has 5 steps
- relational graphic organizers
 - Linguistic studies encompasses several related subfields.
- diagrams
 - The heart is a muscle consisting of chambers and valves.
- representational graphics
 - poinsettias
 - poinsettia flower
- quantitative graphics
 - US Budget allocation

• 3 Nuts & Bolts

• 3.1 What colors should I use for slides or backgrounds

- white backgrounds have the advantage of avoiding background blocks around images. I use black text, mostly.

• 3.2 How big should images for slides be?

- a slide is about 800-1000px for current projection screens
- pictures from cameras are typically much larger than this, you will want to investigate ways to reduce the number of pixels to avoid making your ppt unnecessarily large.
- a 7 megapixel camera generates images 3072x2304

• 3.3 How do you actually take an image from a webpage?

- right-click, or ctrl-click on a mac, save the image
- good practice to save the URL for attribution later

• 3.4 Finding images

- images.google.com -- generalized google search for images
example: search for "water cycle"
- image collections
librarians can be helpful here. In addition to public archives, library might subscribe to image databases
 - ny public library images: digitalgallery.nypl.org
 - life photo archive on google: <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2008/11/life-photo-archive-available-on-google.html>
 - gettyimages.com
 - clipart.com
 - textbook scans & websites