

9.02 – Brain Lab

How to give a short talk

1. Introduction

The first 1 or 2 slides should introduce your subject to the audience. Very briefly (you only have about 10 minutes total) give a concise background. Explicitly state the question you are addressing.

2. Methods

There should be 1 or 2 methods slides that allow the audience to understand how you conducted the experiment. Also, you will need a slide describing your experimental protocol. You might include a flow chart describing the “recipe” of your experiment.

3. Results

The next slides should show your major results. If appropriate, it is nice to start with a slide showing the basic phenomenon (in neurophysiology, this might be a “a single cell” example). It introduces your audience to the basic unit of measure. Next, show figures that clearly illustrate your main results. Don’t show charts of raw data. Summarize with pictures. All figures should be clearly labeled. When showing data, be sure to explain the figure axes before you talk about the data (e.g., “the X axis shows time while the Y-axis shows level of neural activity”).

4. Conclusion

List your conclusions in clear, easy to understand language. You can read them to the audience.

Tips:

Practice, practice, practice

Speak in short sentences. Easy to understand language