

So, you want to make an oral presentation at the PNW Climate Change Conference? Let's work together to make it excellent.

At previous conferences, several attendees commented that the talks were not sufficiently accessible to our broad audience.

"Many speakers had way too many slides and often complex slides for the time slots."

"Some of the presentations in the concurrent sessions were not very good."

"the conference was too scientifically technical. too many graduate students presenting on small kernels of academic research which aren't applicable across the PNW."

"Speakers need to have it drilled into their heads that they are not only speaking to their expert colleagues but also to nonscientists and to scientists from other disciplines."

These quotes underscore how important it is to think of this conference differently. You will not be speaking to an audience composed of experts in your own field.

Consider the audience

We are managers, researchers, scientists mostly from fields besides your own, students, and the concerned public with varying levels of knowledge, but *interested in regional issues related to the climate.*

- Keep at a high level and appeal to others outside of your specialty who may not understand *all* the science, but who still want to understand the impact of your work.
- Start with the motivation: why should anyone care about your research?
- Go light on methods. The three people who care about your methods can grill you at the break.
- Conclude with your main message: be able to explain the significance of your findings in ONE BRIEF SENTENCE.

Consider the format and setting

Oral presentations are different from published journal articles.

- Keep it simple and concise (*but not dumbed-down*) - no more than 16 slides total!

- Focus on a few big ideas,
- Give your audience links or suggestions for further inquiry
- **The conference will be held in a large room where people will have other distractions.**
- Use uncluttered slides with little text
- Figures must be as large as possible, convey a clear message, and be easy to understand, with all axes and data well labeled: test them on a colleague not from your field
- Slides should support what you're saying, not act as a script
- Leave time for questions at the end of your talk
- Make sure all your slides can be read: from a 13" monitor, stand back 6'; from a 24" monitor, 11 feet.

Your homework assignment (**required** to secure your oral presentation spot):

1. Watch the following short videos
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjaTDA-9_sk
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLGLtnRopJM>
2. Read the following links:
<http://www.garreynolds.com/preso-tips/design>
http://www.ted.com/pages/tedx_presentation_design
3. Open one of your recent talks - perhaps the one you hope to present at the Conference - and consider how you would convey that message at our Conference. Create a ONE-SLIDE presentation that conveys your key message (it doesn't have to be the one for your . Explain it in the notes field. Email it to Philip Mote pmote@coas.oregonstate.edu by 5pm August 2.

Any speaker offered an oral spot on July 26 who does not send a response to this request by August 2 will be at risk of forfeiting that oral spot.

4. Recommended but not required: When your talk is prepared, record yourself presenting it. Make sure you can fit into the allotted time (16 minutes for most oral presentations, to allow time to change speakers and time for questions), and think about how to improve the pace and flow.

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