

Storytelling at conferences

How to present your paper without losing your audience

Maaïke Zwart

IT University of Copenhagen

23 February 2024



Why give a conference talk?

Advertise your paper



Advertise yourself

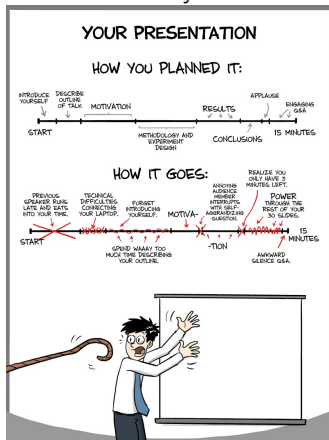


Image by Jorge Cham - PhDComics.com

Overview

- What makes a conference talk 'good'?
- Storytelling techniques for a conference talk:
 - Structure
 - Presentation

What makes a conference talk good?

What makes a conference talk good?

Do

- ✓ Relate to your audience.

What makes a conference talk good?

Do

- ✓ Relate to your audience.
- ✓ Entertain.
- ✓ Teach.

What makes a conference talk good?

Do

- ✓ Relate to your audience.
- ✓ Entertain.
- ✓ Teach.

Don't

- ✗ Just summarise your paper.
- ✗ Try to fit in too many results.
- ✗ Get lost in the details.

Structure of a story

Beginning

Middle

End

Structure of a story

Beginning Exposition

Introduction to the world.

Introduction to the main characters

Inciting incident.

Middle

End

Structure of a story

Beginning Exposition

Introduction to the world.

Introduction to the main characters

Inciting incident.

Middle Journey

Meeting allies, meeting enemies.

Overcoming obstacles or tasks to complete.

Character growth.

End

Structure of a story

Beginning Exposition

Introduction to the world.

Introduction to the main characters

Inciting incident.

Middle Journey

Meeting allies, meeting enemies.

Overcoming obstacles or tasks to complete.

Character growth.

End Resolution

Climax / final confrontation.

Round up.

Teaser or open end.

Structure of a story

Beginning

Exposition:

World

Characters

Incident

Middle

Journey:

Allies, enemies

Obstacles, tasks

Growth

End

Resolution:

Climax

Round up

Teaser

Structure of a story

Beginning

Exposition:

World

Characters

Incident

Middle

Journey:

Allies, enemies

Obstacles, tasks

Growth

End

Resolution:

Climax

Round up

Teaser

Incident:



Climax:



Images from Vecteezy.com

Structure of a story

Beginning

Exposition:

World

Characters

Incident

Middle

Journey:

Allies, enemies

Obstacles, tasks

Growth

End

Resolution:

Climax

Round up

Teaser

Logic

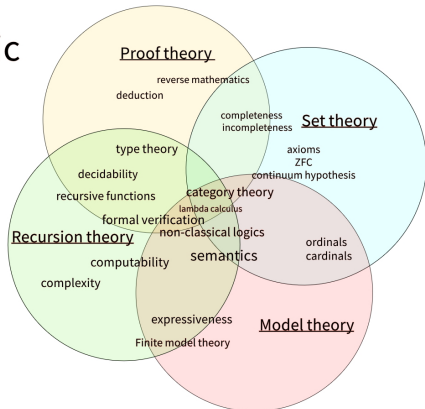


Image by Elli Anastasiadi

⚠ Explain no more than needed.

Structure of a story

Beginning

Exposition:

World

Characters

Incident

Neural Networks

Middle

Journey:

Allies, enemies

Obstacles, tasks

Growth

Properties

Examples

You

Proof techniques

End

Resolution:

Climax

Round up

Teaser

Historical figures

Structure of a story

Beginning

Exposition:

World

Characters

Incident

Middle

Journey:

Allies, enemies

Obstacles, tasks

Growth

Brief summary.

Go read my paper!

- More results!
- Useful for you!

Look out for my next paper...

End

Resolution:

Climax

Round up

Teaser

Presentation : Storytelling

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm
- ✓ Practice
- ✓ Practice
- ✓ Practice

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm
- ✓ Practice - what to say
- ✓ Practice
- ✓ Practice

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm
- ✓ Practice - what to say
- ✓ Practice - how to say it
- ✓ Practice

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time ...”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm
- ✓ Practice - what to say
- ✓ Practice - how to say it
- ✓ Practice - your body language

Presentation : Storytelling

Opening: “Once upon a time . . .”

- ✓ A personal or relatable story.
- ✓ An intriguing question.
- ✓ Follow the rhythm of the story
- ✓ Show enthusiasm
- ✓ Practice - what to say
- ✓ Practice - how to say it
- ✓ Practice - your body language

Closing: “And they lived happily ever after”

- ✓ Take home message.
- ✓ A question to ponder.
- ✓ Humor.

