Presentation Review

Focus on Presentation

Review of 5-minute Presentations

From your watching of the 5-minute presentations, evaluate each according to the rubric below, which includes the following aspects:

1. **Structure of the presentation**: Does the presentation contain all the necessary elements in a balanced way?
   - Attention getter
   - Motivation
   - Background
   - Specific aims
   - Impact/significance

2. **Delivery**: Does the speaker maintain good pace, clarity of language, suitable body language, variation of voice and tempo, etc.?

3. **Slide content and quality**: Were the slides well constructed, rich in information but not cluttered or confusing, minimal text bullets, effective color scheme and fonts, good use of images?

4. **Audience interaction**: Did the speaker respect the audience by using appropriate language and level of expected knowledge? Did the speaker answer questions clearly, show comfort and competence with the material, respect competence of the audience?

Write a short paragraph for each of the points listed above, addressing strengths and weaknesses for each presentation.

For a template rubric to use when taking notes during the presentations, please consider using the following (same content in different formats):
Most problems in talks arise from structural weaknesses.
Another View of Structure

Time

Like this? Or like this?
Presentation Observations

How much to say in the (short) time?

What you need to say to get audience from A to B.

Presentation Observations

How much to include in a slide?

Each slide supports one thought.
Presentation Observations

How to get from general to specific?

"User interface design is essential to the success of a product"

"Here is how we will improve our user interface"  
(Wilcox)

"Apnea management has to be simple and portable"

"Here is how our apnea monitoring system will be simple and portable"  
(Madsen)

Drive a specific statement from a general statement.

Presentation Observations

Who is the Audience?

Tell the audience who you think they are.
Presentation Observations

How does a speaker establish credibility?

“(The speaker) talked about current methods to measure the levels of glucose in the blood and mentioned that the needle technology was very painful. Based from personal experience I know this is not true. Even though there is some discomfort, the pain is minimum. This, in my opinion, took away credibility from his presentation.”

“(The speaker) said that he was going to show us a video and the ‘truth’. In my opinion, this is an incorrect way to open a presentation. Whenever I hear a person tell me that he or she will show me the truth I immediately start questioning the credibility of the presentation.”

No one cares what you think, only what you can prove!

By proving it rather than claiming it.

Presentation Observations

What about that pesky advisor?

“The original slides were more graphic and logic-flow based, without any bullets, but my advisor revised them significantly, according to his own style. For that reason, I already have criticisms of the slides without having seen the video.”

Negotiation is essential but this is YOUR presentation. Make your case.
Language of the presentation

Recognize, practice, and use scientific prose!

When/how to use slides when answering questions?

Use only as needed and when you can find them quickly.
An Example

BIOEN 6061
Ryan Caldwell