

How to give a good short talk to a broad audience

VPA seminar

February 13th, 2018

What is the purpose of a short talk?

- Introduce yourself and your work to the audience
- Inform the audience of broad line of research
- Convince a group of your ideas
- Raise interest for other presentations
 - Longer talk
 - Poster
 - Publications
 - Podcasts, videos, magazines

Exercise –TED talk

- Watch this video:
https://www.ted.com/talks/edsel_salvana_the_dangerous_evolution_of_hiv#t-268179
- Discuss what you think of this video in groups of 3-4
- What makes this presentation good/bad?
 - Oratory (speed of talking, enunciation, pauses, fillers)
 - Subject matter (take-home message)
 - Shape/structure of the talk (begin, start, end, storyline)
 - Presenter form (stance, hands)

What makes this TED talk good?

- Oratory
 - No fillers
 - Pauses
 - Clear enunciation
 - Not too fast
 - Variation in speech pattern
- Subject matter
 - Very little jargon
 - Metaphors used
 - Human v. ape genetic variation
 - Malaria resurgence
- Shape of the story
 - Status quo
 - increasing HIV occurrence in the Philippines during global reduction
 - Challenge
 - Subtype variation
 - Call to action
 - Research into non-B subtypes
- Presenter form
 - Engaged form (hands move)
 - Easy movements
 - No fast walking
 - Not standing still

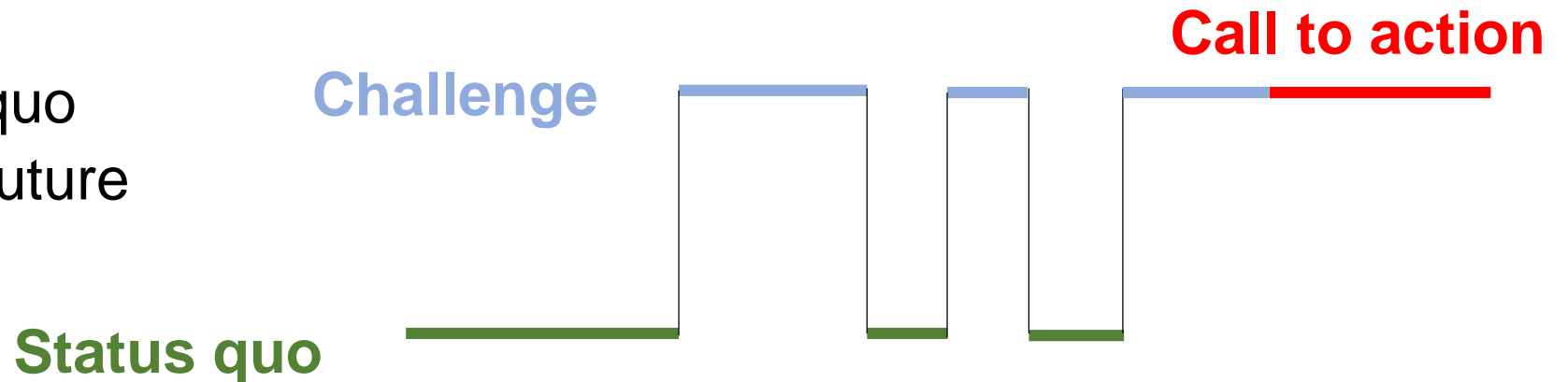
Structure of a good short talk

- Subject matter
 - Have a take home message that is understandable/memorable without background knowledge
 - This disease is bad, this is one step closer to a cure
 - My machine/process benefits this thing/process
 - Process A is important for Function B

- Shape of the story,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nYFpuc2Umk&t=3m43s>

- Describe status quo
- Challenge the status quo
- Call to action/perfect future



Form of a good short talk

- Presentation style
 - Visualize concepts
 - Limit text
 - Describe what is on the slides, don't recite
 - Leave open space
- Oratory
 - Take your time speaking
 - Avoid jargon
 - Use metaphors
 - 'Think of it as...'
 - Vary speech pattern
- Presenter form
 - Feel free to step away from podium
 - Move around
 - Face the audience
 - Be engaging
 - Use gestures
 - Non-verbal communication

Exercise – Is this talk good?

- Watch the videos
- After each video, discuss what you think of this video in groups of 3-4
- What makes this presentation good/bad?
 - Oratory (speed of talking, enunciation, pauses, fillers)
 - Subject matter (take-home message)
 - Structure of the talk (begin, start, end, challenging the status quo)
 - Presenter form (stance, hands)
- https://www.ted.com/talks/mike_gil_could_fish_social_networks_help_us_save_coral_reefs
- https://www.ted.com/talks/carl_schoonover_how_to_look_inside_the_brain?language=en

Lightning round talks 2017

- Winner: 39 words on 20 slides
- Rubric used for judging:
 - Validity of scientific project
 - Originality and innovation
 - Approach to problem solving
 - Organization and clarity
 - Conciseness and timing

**Don't forget to register for the VPA
symposium!!!**

April 12th, 2018 in Student Life Center

**You can register without submitting an abstract
immediately!**

**If you do this, send your abstract to
postdoc@Vanderbilt.edu before March 15th**