The agony and ecstasy of PowerPoints

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PowerPoint: good or bad?


Contents

Agony

• Death by PowerPoint
• Content killers
• Design disasters
• Death by delivery

Ecstasy

• Cool content
• Desirable designs
• Powerful presentations

Available from: schockcrate.com
“If we ever had a war, while you are working on your PowerPoint, we would be killing you”

Russian soldier to an American in Bosnia

Available from: www.educationbusinessblog.com
Content killers

• So much to say so little time
• The PowerPoint = my assignment
• Tables, graphs – no sense to the audience
• Too much information
• Too much detail
• More than 20-25 slides

Available from: www.hg2s.com
Design Disasters

- All-text slides; illegible text
- Poor use of animation, sound & transition
- Inappropriate images / graphics
- Illegible / irrelevant charts
- Distracting, ugly background
- Capital letters
- Bullets
My Superbad PowerPoint Presentation

• Note: no graphics or color! This slide is virtually free of any kind of visual stimulation whatsoever.
• Slide text read verbatim, preferably in monotone. I know, it makes either me or the slide redundant, but I just can’t help myself!
• Really long slide deck
• Boring font
• Really small font because I’m using lots of words. A whole lot of them. Seriously, you haven’t even begun to see all the text in this slide deck. I know, you’re thinking this slide resembles a license agreement, but there’s no “I Accept” button at the bottom! LOL
• Lots of messages on this slide. Which one is most important? You figure it out, if you can. I’m going to assume you have the patience to do that. What, bad assumption?
• What do you mean there’s no visual diversity on this slide? Here I’m using a script style font because I think it’s really cute and elegant. Too bad if it’s hard for you to read, cuz I like it a lot!
• I’m cramming one more bullet on this slide, because there’s just so much I have to say. Are you with me? Hey! Wake up, wipe that slobber off your chin and pay attention to me!
affected family members were excluded from these analyses, as were probands who were unavailable for interview and thus diagnosed solely on the basis of medical records and/or family report. All US patients have completed in full the same DIGS interview administered to South African patients [Sobin et al., 2001]. Our results are reported in Table I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE I. Comparison of Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Afrikaner and US Probands</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demographics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left-handed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single (never married)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living dependently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history/schizophrenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family history/other psychiatric diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndrome features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age DSM-IV schizophrenia onset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizoaffective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comorbid subst. abuse/dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted suicide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptom history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory hallucinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual hallucinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sensory hallucinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disordered behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thought disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alogia/flat affect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All parenthetical values indicate the value of ‘N.’

*Fisher’s exact test P ≤ 0.01 or t-test P ≤ 0.01.
Death by delivery

- Reading the slides
- No interaction with the audience
- Not familiar with the slides
- Speaking skills
- Lack of practice
- Time
The pointer

- Focus
- Emphasise a word, statement, graph – not a sentence
- Guide the audience to important information
- Move the pointer slowly
- Look at your audience
"I have the results of your brain scan. We found evidence of extensive PowerPoint damage."
Ecstasy

- The opportunity to visualise your topic; think visually
- My audience:
  - What do they expect from me
  - Why are they here? (Voluntarily?)
  - Will I make their lives better?
- You are the presentation

Available from: www.igirlsgames.com
Cool content

- Know your audience
- Decide on the key points
- Support statements: credibility
- Build your speech
- Illustrate statement with image, graphs
- Interpret graphs, tables
- Focus on the outcome
- Quotes, stories (NB Time)
Desirable designs

- Colour scheme: text and background contrast
- Font: Clean (e.g. Arial, Calibri)
- Size
  - Text: 28 / 32
  - Titles: 36 / 44
  - Graph / diagram: 20 / 24
- Keep it clean and simple
- Hand outs
- References

Available from: whattodowithdaylight.blogspot.com
Powerful presentations

• Decide on the most-effective techniques
• Use B or W to turn off the screen
• Speak to the audience
• Read the audience
• Interaction
• Conclusion
• References
• Hand outs
• Exit slide
The Ultimate PowerPoint

Project Manager Leaves Suicide

An ultimate presentation of the death of a beloved colleague.

"Williams, a 33-year-old programmer, was found dead in his apartment early Wednesday morning. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation due to carbon monoxide poisoning."

"He was a bright and creative individual who contributed significantly to our team," said John Doe, the manager of the software development department.

"As we mourn the loss of our colleague, we also remember all the moments we shared with him."

End
Overview

1) Assessment Of Current Situation
2) Apologies & Farewells
3) Will & Funeral Arrangements
4) Final Thoughts

Assessment of Current Situation
- Personal traits: ugly, stupid, weak, “a burden,” waste of other people’s time
- Work life: Meaningless
- Social life: Pitiful
- Home life: Non-existent
- Likelihood of positive change: nil
- Summary: I’m good for nothing

Historical Perspective: 1974 to present day

- 1970s: Shallow, puerile existence
- 1980s: Failing struggle for dignity
- 1990s: Hellish coming of age
- 2000s: Realization that best is already behind me
Librarians as superheroes

Available from: www.zap2it.com