Best Practices for Dynamic, Engaging Technical Research Presentations:

You have worked hard on your research and want to share your results, but presentations on research can be challenging to make interesting and dynamic.

Content

Before you get started think about who the audience will be and what the key points you would like to share will be. You will want to create a slide for each key point. This helps the audience stay engaged and focused. If you provide too much information on a slide, the audience may read ahead.

Consider breaking your presentation into key components. This may vary with the time constraints and the makeup of your audience, but here are some questions to ask yourself as you develop your presentation:

- **Introduction** - Why is this work important and why should it be important to your audience?
- **Background** - What has been done in the past?
- **Research Question** - What were you trying to accomplish?
- **Research Methods** - How did you go about your research?
- **Findings / Data** - What are your key findings that are relevant to this audience? This can get tricky. You may have a lot of data points and results. You should keep your design clean and uncluttered.
    - Graphs, pie charts, and bar charts can be very useful. Use color for emphasis but use colors sparingly.
    - Tables can lack visual impact, so be careful not to include too much information.
- **Discussion / Conclusion** - what is the big deal? This can be tricky too. You may have lots to share but include only the necessary details. Less is more engaging.
- **Future Research** - What are your next steps?
- **References** - What previous work did you use? Try to keep this as clean and uncluttered as possible.
- **Acknowledgement** - Was your research funded or do you have an industry or group of workers to thank?
- **Questions** - Be prepared, but don't be longwinded!

Quick tips for making your presentation visually interesting:

- Use simple backgrounds.
- Use text (color) that contrasts with the background.
- Use color for emphasis but use sparingly.
- Fonts should be standard, easy to read.
    - Title ~ 44 point
    - Body ~ 22 point
- Avoid text heavy slides
    - Think white space!
- Avoid full paragraphs but can use if quoting another source.

Thank your audience and enjoy the experience!

These recommendations were compiled by AIHA's Communications and Training Methods Committee. AIHA Communication and Training Methods Committee is a diverse group of individuals from academia, industry, and consulting that have collaborated on this document. These best practices come from our members' years

of experiences presenting to occupational health and safety practitioners, workers, and other stakeholders. This is a living document; share your best practices with us and together we will keep getting the word out on AIHA's vision of *Protecting Worker Health*.

References
https://carey.jhu.edu/life-at-carey/student-development/academic-support/student-success-center/writing-and-presentation-skills-resources/

Technical Presentation Resources:
- Courses
  - Cost $$
    - https://www.asme.org/products/courses/creating-effective-technical-presentations
    - https://www.businesstrainingworks.com/onsite-courses/technical-presentation-skills-training-course/
    - https://peterstark.com/services/training/presentation-skills/presenting-technical-information/#
  - Free:
    - http://www.engr.psu.edu/speaking/STRUCTURE.html - very good shows body positioning
- Companies that have resources
  - https://www.power-presentations.com/programs/onsite-presentation-skills-training/technical-presentation-skills/
  -
- Tip Sheets/Blogs
  - https://www.red-gate.com/simple-talk/opinion/opinion-pieces/creating-technical-presentations/#heading-1
  - https://www.thoughtco.com/dos-and-donts-for-technical-presentations-2767306
  - http://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislative-staff/legislative-staff-coordinating-committee/tips-for-making-effective-powerpoint-presentations.aspx
  - Referred to by Colleague with suggestion of making our own Tip Sheet:
    - http://wittcom.com/how-to-plan-a-technical-presentation/
    - http://wittcom.com/how-to-improve-a-technical-presentation/
    - http://christopherwitt.com/7-elements-of-an-effective-technical-presentation/
- Books
  - Technical Presentation Workbook
  - Technical Presentations
  - Resonate
  - Speak to Win
  - Presentation Zen
- Evaluation Example
  - http://ttditoastmasters.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Adv-TechnicalPresentations.pdf