# Presentation Perfection: Selecting and Using Visual Aids

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# The outline:

#### I. Introduction

- Why Visual Aids?
- The Power of Visuals
- Choosing Your
  Presentation Style

II. Presentation Principles: KISS & Color Care

- Inconspicuous Backgrounds: Choose Wisely
- Legible Fonts: Choose with Care
- Slide Titles: Make a Point
- Optimizing Visual Elements on Slides

#### III. Audience Engagement

- Audience-Centric Design
- Audience Expectations: Design and Delivery
- Effective Slides: Communication, Not Convenience

# Why Visual Aids?

## "We Remember What We See:"

- Visual learning contributes to about 90% of our knowledge.
- Only 7–11% comes from hearing alone.
- "Retaining Information:"
  - After a verbal presentation, people recall roughly 70% three hours later.
  - This drops to as little as 10% after three days.

# The Power of Visuals

## • Purely Visual Presentation:

- About 75% retained after three hours, dropping to 20% after three days.
- Mixed Verbal/Visual Presentation:
  - Approximately 85% recalled after three hours, maintaining 66% after three days.
- Perception of Presenters:
  - Those using visual aids are perceived as more professional and persuasive than those relying on speech alone.

Selecting and using visual aids

#### 1. Slides:

- Slides work well for audiences of **all sizes**, depending on screen size and projector power.
- When used correctly, slides make your presentation look **professional**.

#### 2. Latex:

- LaTeX, a tool for formatting documents, is great for **precise**, technical content.
- Consider LaTeX when you need **detailed control** over document structure and appearance.



## Selecting and using visual aids

### **Choosing Your Presentation Style:**

We could present the same information in more scientific manner using a pie chart:



### **Choosing Your Presentation Style:**

Or we can make it more eye-catching by using a touch of humour:





## Presentation Principles: KISS & Color Care

- KISS (Keep It Short and Simple):
  - Four lines max.
  - Audience understanding.
- Careful Use of Colors:
  - Avoid distraction.
  - Enhance focus.
- Rule of Six:
  - Six lines, six words max.
  - A concise, clear message wins.
- Not Crowded:
  - Comprehension.
  - Avoid clutter .
- Consistency is Key:
  - Color palette.
  - Unified presentation.

# Optimizing visual elements on slides

Because a slide has only a few parts, how you design each one really matters. It impacts how clear your info is and sets the vibe for your presentation.



# Choose inconspicuous backgrounds

Good slide backgrounds are like blank canvases. They don't have visuals on their own



# Choose fonts that are most legible

#### Before

#### After

Can you read this

in the back of the room?

Can you read this in the back of the room?

Carter (2020)

#### Serif fonts are more difficult to read from a distance

Overly complex fonts are nearly impossible to read from a distance

## Sans serif fonts are easy to read from a distance

Helvetica Myriad Pro Century Gothic

Tahoma

On a slide, it is more difficult to read <u>underlined words</u> or words in ALL CAPS If you want to emphasize a word, use **bold letters**, *italics*, or a different color

Carter (2020)

# Use slide titles to make a point

#### Before





#### Background

Infants with more experiences of stroking or cuddling:

Cry less often

Vocalize more

Smile more



#### Infants benefit from positive touch

Infants with more experiences of stroking or cuddling:

Cry less often

Vocalize more

Smile more



#### The Giraffe





# Compose ideas before you compose slides

#### Slide-centric

Focus on filling individual slides with content

#### Idea-centric

Focus on ideas first and then apply them to slides



## **Effective Slides: Communication, Not Convenience**

## • Slide Purpose:

- Use slides to communicate info, ideas.
- Not for presenter's convenience alone.

## • Misuse Alert:

- Relying on slides just for ease?
- Remember, slides enhance, not replace.



## **Audience Expectations: Design and Delivery**

#### • Design:

- 1. Visual Clarity .
- 2.Engaging Content Interactive and relevant.
- 3.Consistency Uniform design elements.
- 4. Relevance Content supports key points.
- Delivery:
- 1.Engagement Dynamic, varied content.
- 2.Clarity Clear fonts, coherent speech.
- 3.Interaction Encourage questions and polls.
- 4.Understanding Simple language, provide contex



# Audience-Centric Design:

#### • Diverse Needs:

- Different backgrounds and interests.
- Various expertise levels.
- Varied Expectations:
  - Differing audience expectations.
  - Tailor the presentation to suit their preferences.
- Attune to Attitudes:
  - Understand audience perspectives and attitudes.
  - Adjust content and tone accordingly.

### • Simple Rule:

- Design with the audience in mind.
- Meets their specific needs

