

This handout is designed to provide you with tips and strategies to help you prepare and deliver an effective scientific presentation for the Master of Neuroscience Courses.

Preparation

- Start by reading the article carefully and making notes on key points
 - *E.g.*, What are the gaps in knowledge, the aim of the paper and the significance of the findings.
- Identify the main message of the article.
- Decide on the key points that you want to make in your presentation.
 - Identify what information is important and if necessary omit detailed information, figures or figure panels.
 - **Remember! The presentation should be limited to a specific time (typically around 30 mins depending on the course, ask the tutor if you are not sure).**
- Create an outline or structure for your presentation.
 - Identify the topic and the gaps in knowledge. Here you may need to incorporate information from other resources such as review articles or illustrations. If you do so, cite the source.
 - identify key methods
 - Identify key data and results. In your presentation **do not use vague comparisons** such as the experimental group was different than the control group, but rather use verbs showing directions, *i.e.*, larger, higher, slower, reduced...
 - Identify points that you would like to **engage the audience**. Consider for example asking input or opinions at the beginning (the advantage here is that you will engage the audience from the beginning of the presentation but the risk is that you may lose time), or at the end of the presentation.
 - Identify points that could be concluded from the experiments that were carried out in the manuscript.

Slides

- Ideally a single slide should have a single message. Typically, a **slide will take 1-2 minutes to present**, depending on the complexity. Identify the

number of slides to prepare based on the given time already from the beginning.

- Keep the slides simple and easy to read. Avoid using too much text on a single slide, and try to use bullet points instead of paragraphs.
 - A rule of thumb is to have no more than 7 words per line and no more than 7 lines per visual
- Use a clear and readable font. Font size and color scheme should be kept consistent throughout the presentation. Try not to use font sizes smaller than 18, ideally the fonts should be around 22-24 pt.
- Use images and graphs to support your presentation.
 - The figure design and layout in an article aims to fit many information in a single image and it may not be suitable for a presentation. **Consider splitting the figure** in the article in several slides to simplify the information.
 - Make sure that every object and text within the slide is visible. Do not insert tables that are not visible to the audience or contain too much information. If this is absolutely necessary, consider highlighting the important information with a frame or enlarging it using an animation effect.

Presentation

- Speak clearly and confidently.
 - Make sure that your voice is audible to the entire room.
 - Do not speak fast.
- Use pauses and changes in tone to keep the audience engaged.
- Maintain eye contact with the audience.
- Use body language to emphasize key points.

Remember to practice your presentation several times and be confident in your delivery. Good luck!