Seminar critique

- Due Friday, Nov 20
- EEB seminar Wed 12:30-1:45

Presentations

General issues

- **# slides for 10 minute talk?**

- **Tips for preparing – what should you do?**

General issues

- **# slides for 10 minute talk?**
  - **~1 slide/minute depending on slides**

- **Tips for preparing**
  - **Must practice talk!**
  - **You can write out entire talk, then practice/ memorize first few words of each slide or difficult things to say/describe**
  - **Some people memorize whole talk**
  - **Use "notes" section in powerpoint for text or first few words**

General Issues III

- **Citations**
  - **Often occur in Introduction slides**
  - **Can be placed at the bottom right or in bullets**
  - **Format: Johnson et al 2005 or sometimes Johnson et al 2005 Science**
  - **Self-citing: If you want to highlight your previous work that you use as background**
- **Image credits**
  - **You should credit others for images that aren't yours (not always done)**
- **Spell check – typos during presentation are embarrassing**

General issues

- **Don't need to speak every word or detail on a slide – the audience can usually read faster than you can talk**
  - **So, emphasize the things you want the audience to focus on**
  - **Tools for this are "animation" in power point**
  - **There are lots of silly ways to do this that can be fun, but try not to distract audience too much**
  - **Like this**
  - **There are also silly slide transitions**

Sections?

Sections

- Title slide
- Acknowledgements (first or last)
- Outline (optional)
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- (these need not be labeled as such)

Formatting

- **Definitely do:**
  - **Minimize text on each slide**
  - **Maximize pictorial aspects**
  - **Keep font sizes big not small**
- **Optional: use colored background and light text**
- **Definitely don't do:**
  - **Use colored text that can't be seen like this**
  - **Use backgrounds that make text/images hard to see**

Title slide

- **What to include?**

Title slide

- **Title**
- **Your name, your affiliation (usually department and organization)**
- **Optional: co-authors**
- **Optional: Pictures/Figures**

Acknowledgements

- **What to include?**

Acknowledgements

- **Co-authors if they're not on title slide**
- **Others that provided assistance but aren't co-authors (field/lab assistance, reviewers of paper)**
- **Funding**

Outline

- **When to have one?**
- **Content in it?**
- **Purpose?**

Outline

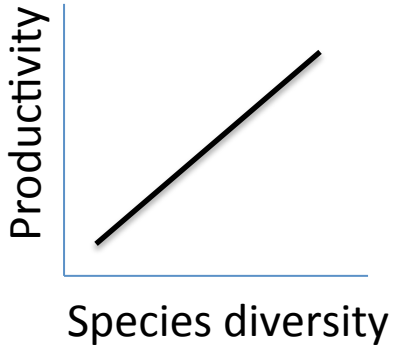
- Optional
  - Useful for longer talks with multiple questions
  - Unnecessary for short talks
- Content
  - The big question(s)
  - (optional) Subsections
- Purpose
  - To let the reader know connections ahead of time

Introduction

- **Purpose?**
- **Content?**

Introduction

- **Motivation for the talk:**
  - **The big question, ideally in pictoral form**
  - **Why the audience should care**
- **Hypothesis + motivation**
  - **Frequently in the form of a graph with fake line/ data**



Methods

- **Purpose?**
- **Content?**

Methods

- Introduce study site, species – with pictures!
- Try to excite audience
- Give very brief description of methods
  - Enough for them to understand results and assess them critically, but not at the level necessary for audience to replicate study
  - If there is math, it's best to show it on a slide so a mathematical audience person can quickly recognize and assess it, but usually don't go through in detail

Results

- **How to present data?**
- **What goes on slide?**
- **How many items (figs, pictures) per slide?**

Results

- Figures (no tables!)
- If multiple figures with the same format or data type or colors, introduce the format, then show the data
- Tips
  - Use the same color scheme on multiple graphs
  - Include a small photo of organism represented on graph if that makes sense
  - Can use thumbnails of one figure to link it to another
  - Can put hypothesis on results slide

Results

- **Tip: If you have a “result” figure that you don’t have time to present, but you think an audience member may ask a question about it, put it after last slide**

Results

- **Verbal part**
  - **There is no legend in a talk, so always explain to the audience what is on the x and y-axes of a graph and what each point is**
  - **If you give stats on a figure, you don't need to say p-value, but for regression people often say the percent of the variance explained or other measures like this**

Discussion

- **Content?**

Discussion

- Same as paper – what results mean
- Relevance to bigger picture
- Caveats/shortcomings
- Future directions
- Applied aspects
- Sometimes done as a summary or conclusions slide (especially for talks w/ multiple results)

Final slide

- **Will be on screen during discussion**
  - **Discussion/Conclusions**
  - **Acknowledgements**
  - **Nice image**
  - **Thanks/Thank you**

Let’s critique a (old) talk of mine

(It has some useful things and some parts that could be improved!)