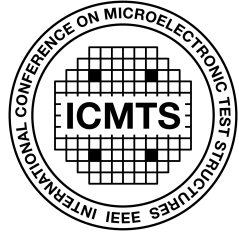


# Giving Your ICMTS Presentation

Brad Smith

April 2025




# Introduction

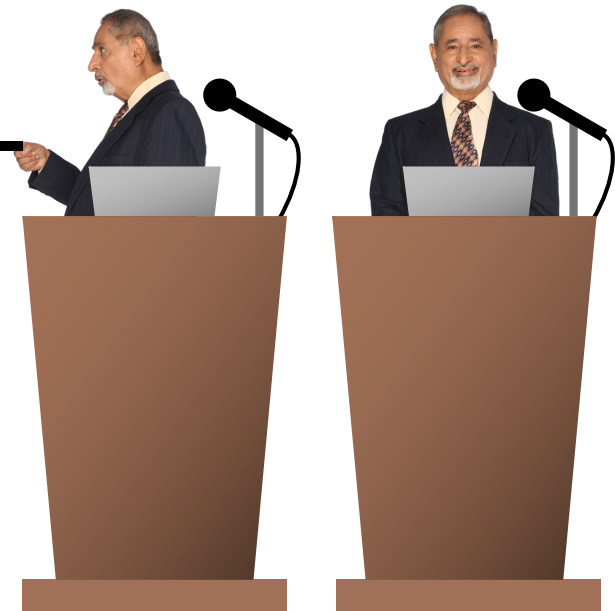
- Intended audience
  - People who will give a presentation at ICMTS (International Conference on Microelectronic Test Structures)
    - Also applicable to any technical presentation
- Intended outcome
  - You understand techniques for giving a better talk at a technical conference
- Also on this site:

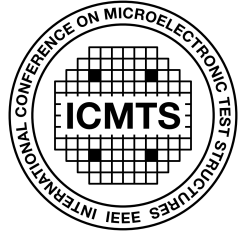


“Making Your ICMTS Presentation Slides”

# Speaking: Basics

- Speak clearly, slowly, at the appropriate volume for the microphone
- Look at the audience, not the screen, not a piece of paper
  - Make eye contact (or look at the back of the room)
- Point using the laptop, not using a laser pointer
  - PowerPoint: Control-L → “laser pointer” 
  - Keeps your face pointed at the audience and the microphone
- If the audience cannot hear you, your message is lost





# Speaking: Language

- All IEEE talks are done in English
- English is not the first language for a large majority of your audience
- Be aware of:
  - The room's audio system
  - Accent differences between you and the audience
- Speak slowly, clearly
- Do not use slang, idioms, or pop culture references

# Speaking: Audio

- Microphone could be:
  - Mounted on the podium in front of you
  - Handheld
  - Clipped to your lapel
    - Clip on same side as the screen
    - Beware loose clothing that can cause noise



- Listen for your own volume from the speakers and adjust
  - Microphone too close → difficult to understand you
  - Microphone too far away → difficult to hear you



- If the audience cannot hear/understand you, your message is lost

# Speaking: Every Venue is Different



2018 Austin

Handheld mic → Very inconsistent sound!

The podium might force you to use the handheld mic anyway



2024 Edinburgh



# Speaking: Time Limit

- Your talk has a time limit; please respect it
  - Going over your time makes you look unprepared
  - If you must speak faster to stay on time, you're saying too much
- Practice practice practice practice practice practice ...
- Speaking voice  $\neq$  voice in your head
  - Always speak out loud when practicing



# Speaking: Crowd Size

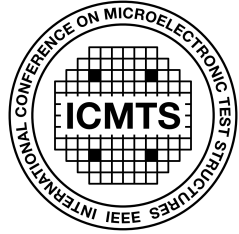
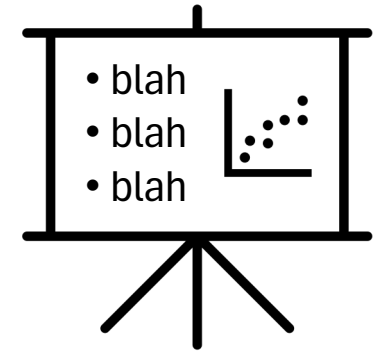
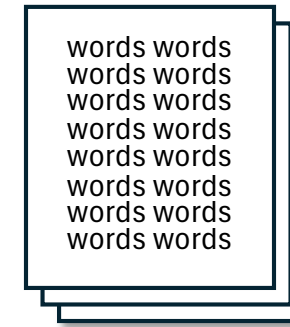
- Standing in front of a crowd is very different than a small group
  - Can be very intimidating



- Practice speaking to a large group if possible
  - Use an auditorium if possible
  - If you're going to have any trouble with your talk, do it with a friendly audience
  - Get feedback from your audience, adjust your talk accordingly

# Speaking Style

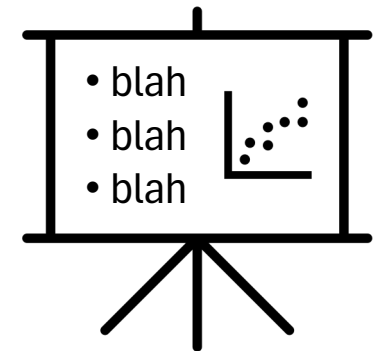
- Read from a script
  - Please make it different from your paper
  - Easy to run out of time



# Speaking Style

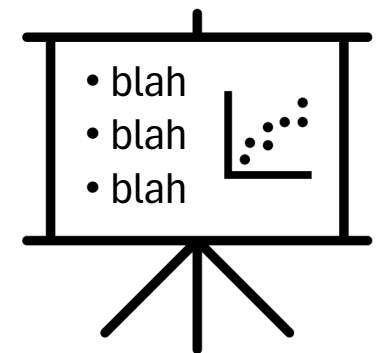
- Read from a script
  - Please make it different from your paper
  - Easy to run out of time
- Use bullet points
  - Sheet of paper with main point to mention per slide

1. Say X  
2. Say Y  
3. Say Z



# Speaking Style

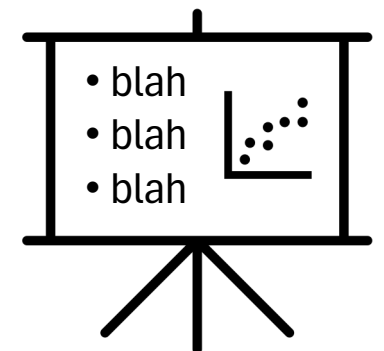
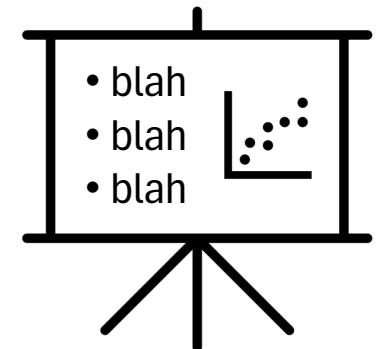
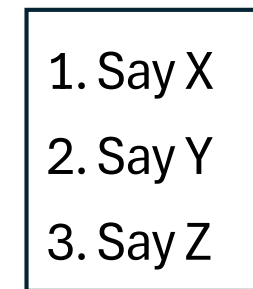
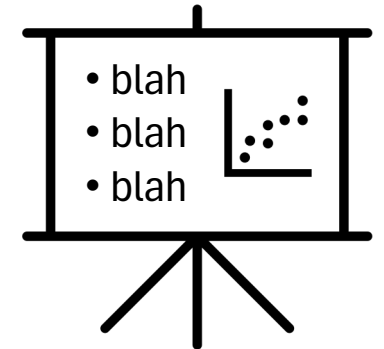
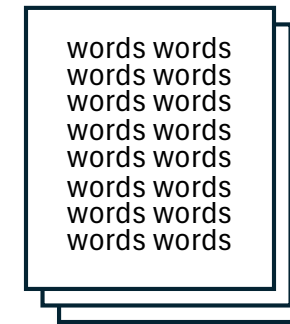
- Read from a script
  - Please make it different from your paper
  - Easy to run out of time
- Use bullet points
  - Sheet of paper with main point to mention per slide
- From Memory
  - Main points are on the slides

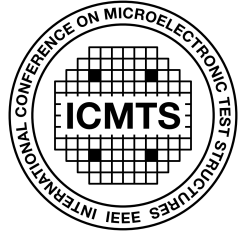


## Pick a style that works for you

# Speaking Style

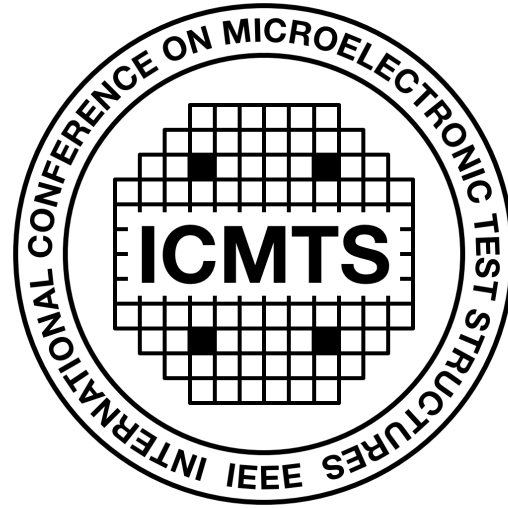
- Read from a script
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  - Sheet of paper with main point to mention per slide
- From Memory
  - Main points are on the slides





# Three Things to Retain From This Talk

1. Practice your talk until you are comfortable doing it within your time limit
2. Face the audience, manage the volume so they can hear
3. Speak slowly and clearly so the audience can understand



Thanks for watching  
and have a great talk!