HOW TO GIVE A SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION

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When preparing a scientific presentation…

- What are your main points?
- What does your audience know?
- How can you interest your audience?

Then… OUTLINE!

OUTLINE

- Start with an introduction
- State the scientific question
- Describe key methods
- Present key experimental data
- Summarize the findings

INTRODUCTION

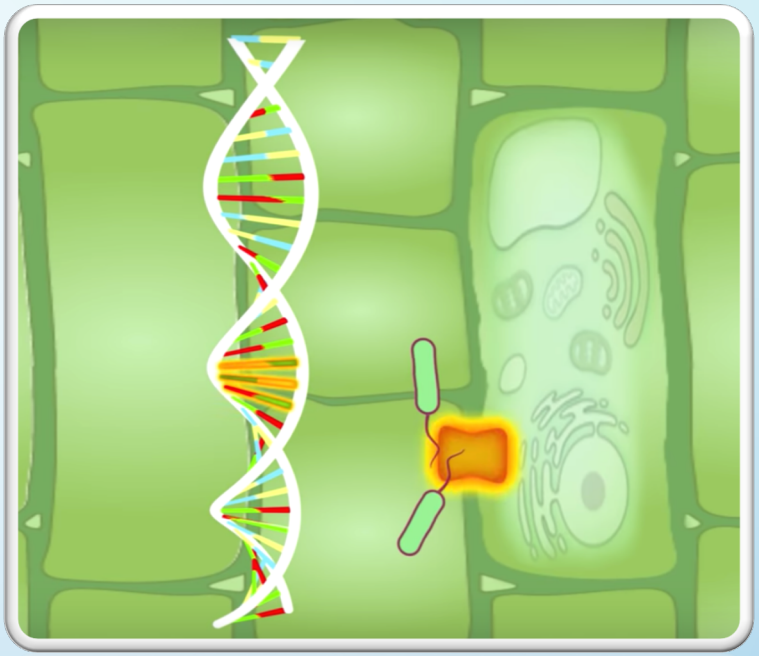
Why should your audience care?



- Get their interest early
- Prepare the audience for your main points

INTRODUCTION

- Build slides to proceed from familiar topics to more detailed information
- Allow for everyone to begin on the same page



INTRODUCTION

- Lead the audience to the major scientific question
- Define your terms; don't assume everyone understands your acronyms



INTRODUCTION

- Give an adequate review of the background without too much detail
- Use illustrations for the background



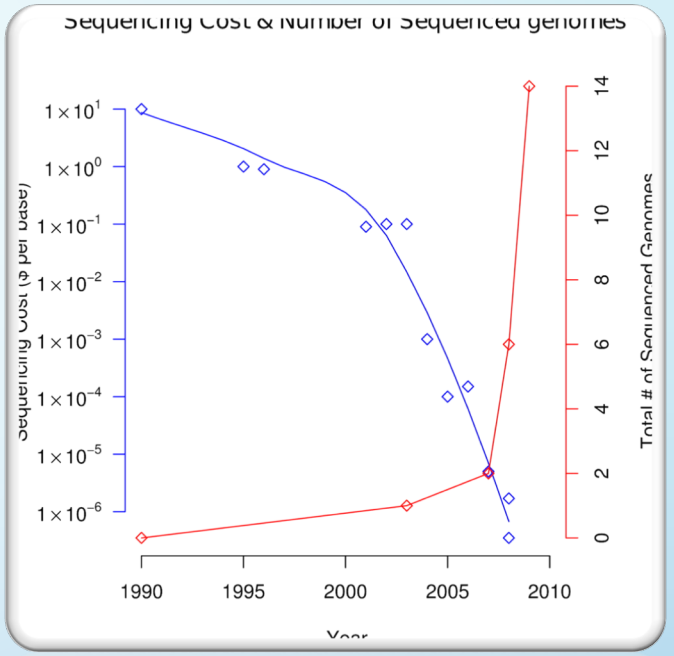
SCIENTIFIC QUESTION

- What was the rationale for the study?
- Describe 3-4 main points
- Show how the studies are linked



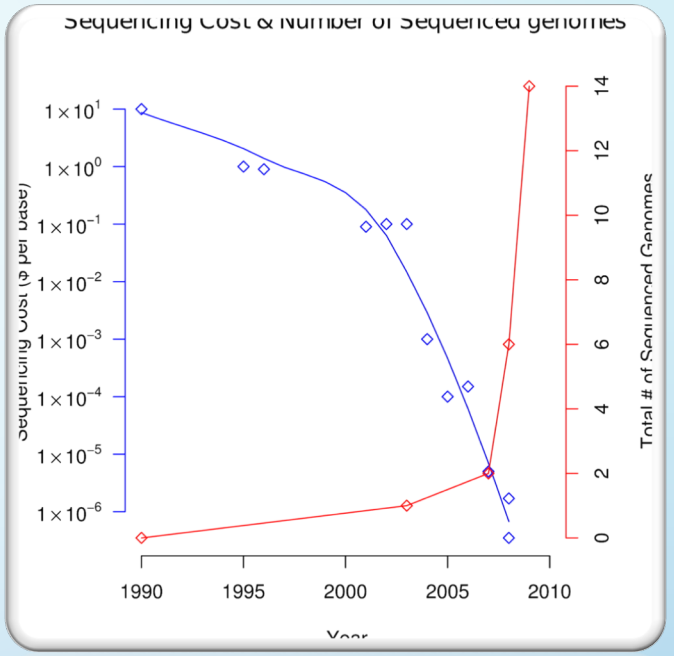
FINDINGS

- Discuss methods but don't describe too much detail if not necessary
- Discuss key data
- Explain data in each figure clearly; cite the publications



FINDINGS… Ask yourself:

- Is this graph important?
- Are the labels visible?
- Will the audience clearly understand it?



SUMMARY

- Re-state on the main points
- Show how they are related
- Leave summary slide up at the end; give audience time to absorb them



LAYOUT

Things that are different catch the eye

If everything looks the same, it can be hard to pick out the main ideas

The audience might spend more time reading the slide than listening to you

Important ideas can get lost – like how much I like banana split ice cream

You have to fight to make your ideas stick in your listener's mind for more than a second

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LAYOUT

- Slides shouldn't be too busy
- Emphasize important points
- You can use catchy visuals
- Keep animations to a minimum
- Use appropriate font styles + sizes

MAKING THE PRESENTATION EFFECTIVE

- Know your time limits and stay within them
- If you have to speak fast, you have too much!
- Generally speaking, allow 1+ min per slide
- **Practice! Practice! Practice!**
- Allow someone to listen to your presentation beforehand and offer suggestions

MAKING THE PRESENTATION EFFECTIVE

- Thank the audience for their attention
- Offer to address any questions
- Don't forget to smile!

Body language



QUESTION TIME

- Give yourself time to think and compose an answer
- If you don't know, say so… but you can offer some related thoughts and to find an answer

