



University of Wisconsin · Madison
Materials Research Science and Engineering Center on Nanostructured Interfaces

Creating an interesting and effective slide presentation on your research

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February 27, 2008

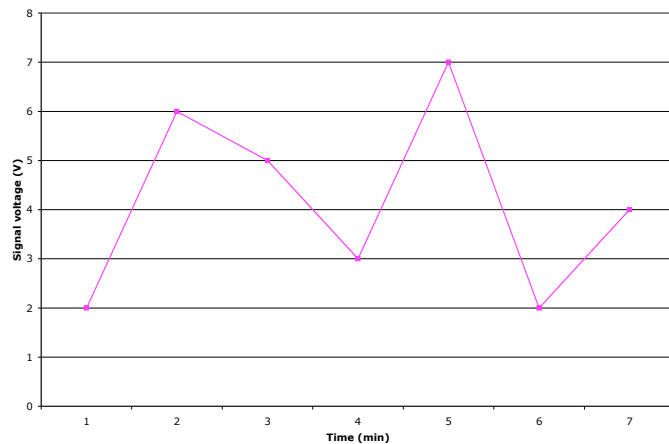


Too Much Text

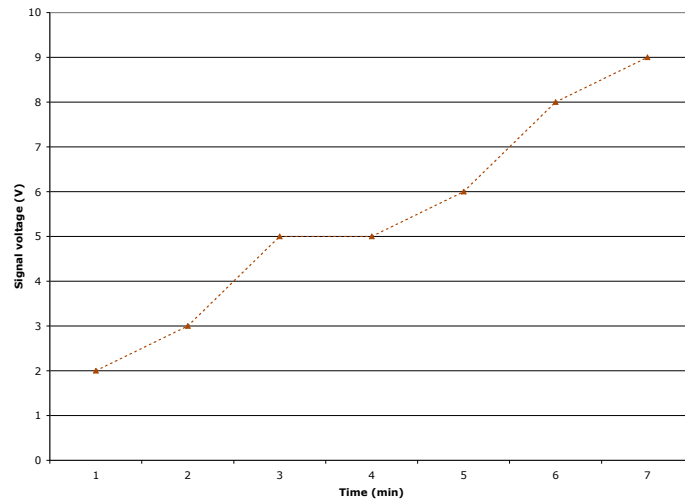
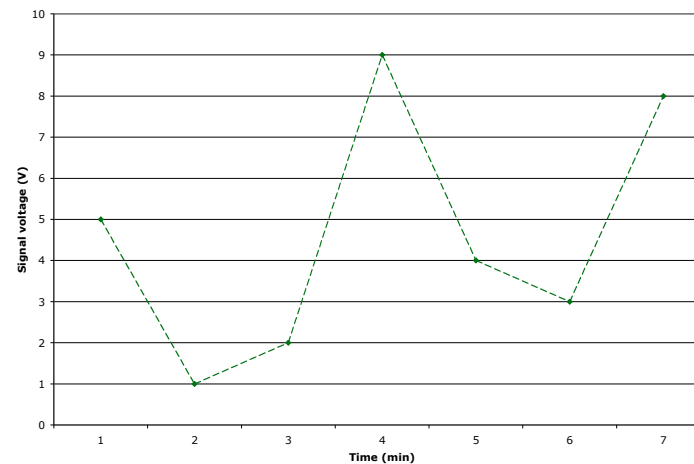
- Don't put a lot of text on your slides.
- Lots of text causes your audience to either quit listening to you in favor of reading or quit paying attention altogether.
- Also, it can make it difficult for your audience to discern what the most important points of the slide are if there's too much information.
- Whatever you do, **DON'T JUST READ TEXT!** If you have a slide, such as "Conclusions" that necessitates a text-based list, make sure you paraphrase each point instead of reading verbatim.
- This doesn't mean that you can't have any writing, just that you should keep it at a minimum.
- Use key words and phrases to help remind yourself what you wanted to say about a slide.

Slide too busy, unreadable

Material A: Signal over time



Material B: Signal over time



- 3 figures is a bit much - could be combined?
- Graphs/text may not be legible.
- Pertinent information missing.
- Also, avoid fancy graphics, animations, text animations unless really add to content.
- Too crowded - white space is important!



- Keep slides simple...
 - Minimize text
 - 1 or 2 points per slide
 - Visual simplicity
- ...but still readable.
 - All necessary notations
 - Text size, line width, color choices
- Don't force titles



Storylines

- No “Outline” page
- Basic story format
 - Motivation
 - Background
 - Results
 - Conclusions
 - Future work
 - Acknowledgements



Storylines - message & focus

- What's the main point?
 - Overall
 - Each slide
- Who is your audience?
 - Sufficient background
 - Jargon



Storylines - transitions

- Transitions between slides
 - “After we discovered A, we knew we had to run experiment B”
 - “This phenomenon was unusual, and so we decided to do C”
- Transition words
 - Because, in contrast, similarly, if...then, additionally, recall from earlier, etc.



- Keep slides simple!
- Develop a storyline
- Giving your talk
 - Show interest & enthusiasm
 - Eye contact
 - PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!