

Perspectives Guidelines

The Perspectives format is intended to encourage people to integrate and synthesize their findings across multiple projects or multiple papers across one project.

Although this format does allow for a more traditional use of Powerpoint than the 20X20 or Current Conundrums formats, we encourage you to still give some thought to your take-home message and organize your slides around that. A week or a month or a year from now, people are likely to only remember one thing about your talk. What do you want that to be?

Seen through that lens, some of our advice for other formats is useful here too.

1) Limit the number of words or images on each slide to help listeners absorb the message you want to send.

Even tables should be organized to highlight your key findings. We know it is tempting to try to impress people with all of your statistical skills or your exhaustive analytic approach, but don't expect the audience to identify the key findings if you have not done that yourself.

2) Images often work better than words because they can convey ideas in an engaging and visually simple form. If you present data (not required), think figures more than tables. Bar charts or pie charts are more engaging than tables.

3) Keep your message focused; trying to cover too much will make it difficult for listeners to understand your take-home message and result in you racing through the presentation.

4) Practice! Out loud. It does not sound the same in your head as it does when you try to communicate it out loud. Practice will help you smooth transitions and make sure your slides are in the order that best fits your message.

5) Don't put all of your speech on your slides. Avoid reading what is on the slides. Your audience can read much faster than you can speak. It is not necessary to say out loud demographic details from your study or other similar details—people will read those off your slide. Instead, put in the sort of natural language you would use to communicate to a student, journalist, or even a family member. For example, "Most participants were young parents from a predominantly Latino community."

The only exception to this rule is when you are speaking to an audience that includes many people who are not fluent in the language of your talk--then more duplication on your slides will improve comprehension.

6) Devote the bulk of your time to your results, discussion, and implications. Think about how the audience could use the results of your work. Time your talk so you do not accidentally spend most of your time on background and method, which will generally be of less interest to people.

7.) Your Perspectives presentation should be a **maximum of 12 minutes long**. Presentations will be followed by 1-2-4-All, a liberating structure activity designed to encourage productive conversation. Please see the 1-2-4-All guidelines for more information.

Looking forward to your talks,

Sherry Hamby, Ph.D, Victoria Banyard, Ph.D., & Nicole Yuan, Ph.D., Conference Chairs