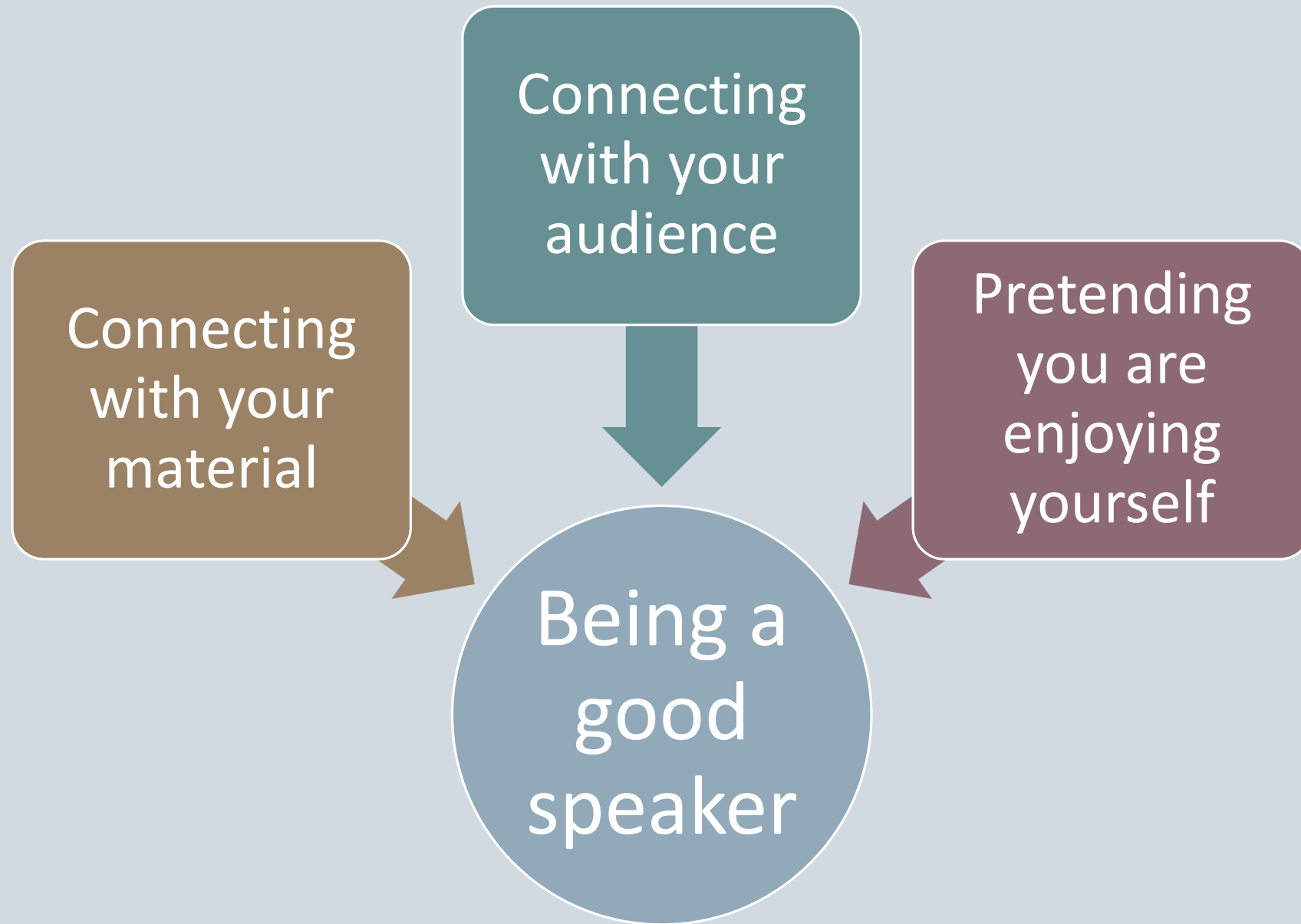


Advice on giving a scientific presentation

SPRING 2020

DR. SUE ISHAQ



Connecting with your material

Practical:

- Practice your talk
- If there are components you are unfamiliar/uncomfortable with, look into it
- Know your material enough to be able to 'wing it' if the tech fails you!

Emotional:

- You are better able to remember information that has a positive emotion/narrative tied to it
 - Like your subject
 - Find an aspect that surprises you

Connecting with your audience

Practical:

- Introduce new concepts with images/video and text
- Take the time to explain your methods or jargon

Emotional:

- Your audience is better able to remember information that has a positive emotion/narrative tied to it
 - A narrative helps draw in people new to this area
- Have empathy – your audience probably doesn't know what you are talking about
 - Define words, use pictures, explain concepts using analogies

At least pretend to enjoy yourself

Your audience will respond to YOU, even if they don't care about your material

Thank them for attending, mention you are pleased to be there

With practice, you get better at banter

Recommendations

Science talks don't have to be highly-technical to be good

- Technical information is required in grad seminars, but tech summaries in all else
- Jargon or difficult words should be in writing so your audience can see them

Put enough words in so you remember why you have that slide

- I like to make my headings the transition sentence to remind me the point I want to make on that slide
- Also good for making slides available later for people to follow along

Pace yourself

- You are probably trying to cram too much info and will lose people/forget the material

Recommendations

Accessibility is key!

- Good contrast between background and font color
- Avoid red/green
- Sans-serif fonts and light green backgrounds tend to be visually easier to read
- Make sure figure labels are large enough font
- Reduce complexity of images or diagrams if the whole thing isn't pertinent
- Avoid too much text. This ppt has TOO MUCH TEXT
- Add alt text to your images so they can be read by text to speech translators

bUt I aM bAd At PrEsEnTiNg

The shakes might never go away

- Endorphins from 'fight or flight' response

Give yourself time to calm down before jumping into material

- Thank whoever invited you
- Introduce yourself in one or two sentences
- Give an outline
 - But DON'T just list your sections (Intro.. Methods... Results), give them a conceptual outline

Force yourself to slow down

- Sip water
- Pop-in animation to add text
- Section headers

Remember that they invited YOU to talk, and they showed up. They want to hear to hear what you have to say!