

Five tips to your best finance presentation

Gary Bandy



1 Write a script

Just as with writing documents, start by thinking about the audience and try to tell a story. As a rule of thumb English is spoken at about 120 words per minute so you can work out how long your script should be to fit the target time for the presentation.

2 Use more images, fewer words



You are the presentation, not the slides.

What's on the screen is supposed to support what your are saying, not compete with it.

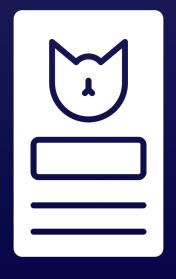
If the audience can get your message just from reading your slides then you should just send them the slides as a document and not bother with the presentation since your presence adds nothing.

3 Write proper handouts

The aim of the handout is for the audience to have a document that they can read separately from your presentation and it still makes sense.

If you are presenting a report then you don't need a separate handout.

If you do need a handout don't use the Print Slides feature in PowerPoint or Keynote. They're not proper documents. If all your slides were bullet points, they sort of make sense, but if you have lots of images they don't.



Instead, write a short handout that is a summary of your presentation. This is where you might want to use some bullet points. And, if you have the skill, you might re-use some of the images, charts, etc from your slides.

4 Rehearse

If you want to give a good presentation you need to rehearse it. The first run-through can be reading from your script but the more you practice the better and smoother you will be.

And when you are rehearsing, think like an actor. When an actor receives a script they are not just thinking about the words but also the emotion or mood that they are to portray. Think about that when you are rehearsing. Do you want to communicate excitement to the audience, or fear, or joy or seriousness?



5 Remove barriers



Don't stand behind a lectern or table so there is no physical barrier between you and the audience.

Use a remote control so that you can change slides whilst moving around.

Basically these five tips are a positive way of saying:

Don't start the day before the presentation by filling out bullet points in a PowerPoint template and then use the bullet points as reminders of what to say. If you are a finance professional follow me on LinkedIn for more tips to improve your writing and presentation skills.