



The AU Science Café & Pub Presenter Tips



Here are a few tips to help you enjoy & prepare for your café session!

- **Keep it SHORT!** You have ~15 minutes to talk, but our focus is on **dialogue (NOT A LECTURE)** with lots of Q/A afterwards.
 - Come prepared with **2 or 3 open-ended questions for the audience** to encourage active discussion. This helps if questions are slow.
 - Overall, **engage with the audience!** Ask them questions, have them volunteer for demos, poll them, and let them participate whenever you can!
- Here are some **ideas for topics**:
 - Your own research! But keep the focus on how this could be meaningful to the audience.
 - A “Pop-sci” topic you might fit your own work into. Here are a couple of pages with some ideas on this that might jog an idea:
 - A short list of pop-sci topics: <http://bit.ly/1ONerOZ>
 - Previous topics from the University of Michigan: <http://bit.ly/22pipFp>
 - A search-able list of videos: <http://to.pbs.org/1Vi9q7S>
 - Any other science topic you’re passionate about and have expertise on!
 - Always **focus on the “why should the audience care?”** of your topic. Bring the connection to them!
- For **audio/visual**, we should have access to both, though please check in with Josh on what you’re expecting to need. We also have a few rules:
 - **No more than 5-7 slides max. These should be almost all pictures or video.** This helps keep audience attention and helps avoid too much monologue!
 - Avoid complicated graphs and minimize (or eliminate!) text.
 - Not using powerpoint is perfectly fine too! You might consider bringing objects from your work or demos instead.
- **Use plain language!** Feel free to talk about advanced ideas, but avoid jargon as your audience will be quite diverse. Both young students and older adults attend.
- Be **informal** and be **relaxed**. Share personal stories. Rehearse if you want, but keep things reasonably off-the-cuff. Laugh, connect, and most importantly, **have fun!**

For questions or if you’re interested in speaking at a café:

www.auburn.edu/cosam/sciencecafe

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