

# 10 Commandments of Technical Presentations

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Why make a Presentation?

Required

Marketing

Sell (an idea)

Share Knowledge

Help others

Preparing

Be Nervous

**Nervous:** Tells that you care about the presentation, about being there, doing well

Then Turn that into Action

Dig in to the details



# Anticipate Questions

What would a curious mind ask?

Read from multiple sources

Show only examples you've tried

The rule of  
The First 3 Talks Suck

Never, ever, present from  
slides created by someone  
else

Delivery

The most difficult task today  
is keeping people's attention

**The first few minutes of a  
presentation counts a lot**

# Information Density

Don't tell us, at length, what  
you won't tell us



Set Expectations—remind  
the audience what they'll  
learn from your presentation

Even if they've read your  
abstract ahead of time

Don't deliver raw facts

Our goal is not to tell them  
everything there is to know

Inspire, promote learning

Tell us your story,  
but not a tale!

Wear your passion on the  
sleeve

Express your positive feelings

Be objective

Don't read from slides

... but if you have to

Slides

Avoid bullet ridden corpse



Avoid long/full sentences

**Make audience want to listen  
rather than read slides**

Code (in slides)

Font size in proportion to  
room size

Visit the room ahead to find out or ask the organizers

# Demo & Live Coding

High Risk area

Prepare for  
connectivity to fail



Prepare for  
system error, incompatibilities

# Avoid live coding

Takes a lot of effort to get  
this right

Too many moving parts, easy  
to fail

Use recorded Demos instead

Huge time saver

Highly stable

Narrate / lipsync

If you decide to live code

Be ready for things to fail

Don't mumble at errors

Damn the torpedo

Sequence the contents

Avoid the knowledge chasm

Start from the known

attack just one unknown at a  
time

walk audience along  
knowledge deltas

Face the audience

Don't look at the screen,  
glance at your window

Make eye contact



# Avoid Mannerisms



**Mateusz Świetlicki** @mswietlicki

25 Jul

Love (@venkat\_s)s NDC talks! Only overuse of "by the way" is annoying.

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Record and view

Ask a friend to critique

Join presentation groups

Wanna say something  
funny?

Don't confuse vulgar  
with humor

If you're in doubt, don't  
go there

Don't touch culture or  
locale, it's at best annoying

# Commandments

# 9. Create your own presentations



# 8. Set expectations

**7. Make eye contacts, face the audience at all times**

6. Share your story, your  
experience, we're here to  
listen to you

**5. Avoid bullets and bullet  
ridden corpse**

**4. Use large fonts, ensure audience can see comfortably**

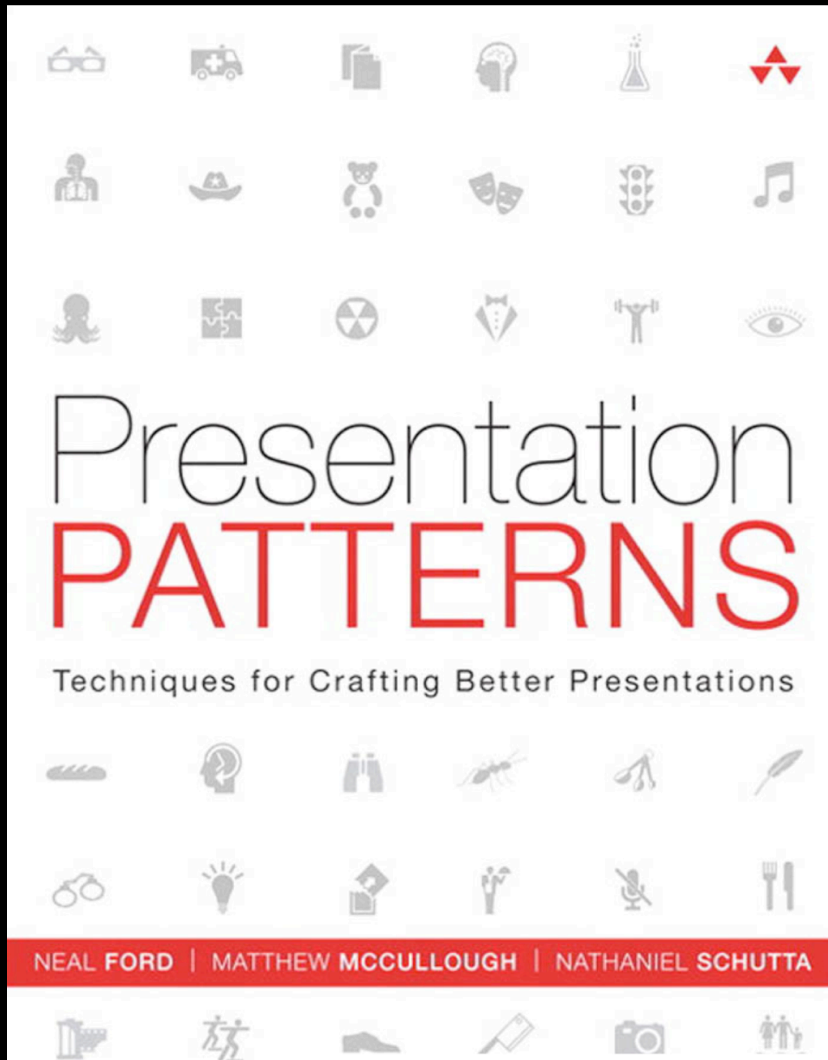
**3. Don't mumble**

**2. Walk the audience through  
small knowledge packets**

1. *Avoid vulgarity*



0. Practice, practice, practice



and listening to various presentations