How (not) to give talks

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Communication Networks Seminar 2016
Sorry about the technical problems
It’s Tuesday!! Sept. 20, did you know? (Also, 2016.)

And we’re at the communication networks seminar, CAB G57, ETH Zürich, Swi
We will study recent advances in networking by reading and presenting research papers from top conferences in the area. Each session will include 2 research papers on a topic, at least one of which will be presented by a student. Both papers will be discussed in each session. Prior to each session, every student is expected to submit brief reviews for the session's papers here.

Seminar Hours
Tuesday, 15:00-17:00 in CAB G 57
Also, joke ... because ... why not?

I HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT I'M DOING
• To understand the state-of-the-art in the field
• To learn to read, present and critique papers
• To identify opportunities for new research
• Attend and actively participate in the entire seminar.
• Present one of the seminar topics.
• Submit brief reviews for each Tuesday's readings on the previous Friday.
• You will be evaluated on all three factors above.
This seminar is better!

It improves upon past work.
Cool result!!

Clearly, the students’ interest is growing!
We will study recent advances in networking by reading and presenting research papers from top conferences in the area. Each session will include 2 research papers on a topic. Two students will take charge of each session, and everyone will attend and participate in the entire seminar. You will be evaluated on all three factors above.

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Lastly, this whole thing is important because ...

... seminars are a good thing.

I would even say a ... great! ... thing
Questions?

“Uh … we can take that offline.”

Oh wait, I took how long? Oops.
Sorry about the technical problems

Arrive early, test your setup
It's Tuesday!! Sept. 20, did you know? (Also, 2016.)

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Humor is great! But keep it relevant.

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This seminar is better!

We quantify things! Better how? By how much? Why?

It improves upon past work.
Cool result!!

Again: title. Explain the axes. Make things readable.

Clearly, the students’ interest is growing!
Oh sorry, that was the wrong slide

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Know your slides. Keep slides lightweight.

I meant it’s deceasing

Spelling is important.
Lastly, this whole thing is important because …

Structure your presentation!

... seminars are a good thing.

I would even say a … great! … thing

Everything on the slides should have a point.
Questions?

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Stick to the time!
One plausible presentation structure

1. What’s the problem being solved?
2. Why should we care? (I like throwing in a result-summary)
3. Overview of approach
4. Key insight; distinction from the past
5. Details, results
6. Critique, discussion prompts (incorporate throughout?)