



Thomas Jefferson
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Building a science slam presentation

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Have you ever been inspired by something you learned about science??



And then... action! Science in real life!



**Aim: To give you ideas and tools to build
a science slam talk.**

Our Agenda

- Review an example
- Share tips for building your science slam

Keep in mind...

- Audience discusses and judges
- Audience is ANYONE!!
- Presenters use a 5-minute format (~750 words)

Science Slam Example:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGKnTqQqb_E

3 Key Areas Judges will consider:

- **Passion** - use your face, hands, and voice!
- **Pictures** - use simple, colorful, clear graphics.
- **Plain language** - make it easy to understand!

Choosing plain language

- Prefer the familiar word to the unfamiliar.
- Prefer the concrete word to the abstraction.
- Prefer the single word to the many.
- Prefer the short word to the long.
- Prefer the Saxon word to the Romance word.

The King's English by H.W. Fowler, 1906

Saxon vs. Romance

- Boss vs. superior
- Job vs. position
- Wish vs. desire
- Gut vs. abdomen
- Help vs. ?

What are some plain language alternatives?

Jargon words	Plain language
Accelerate	Speed up
Bilateral	Two-sided, both sides
Carcinogen	Cancer-causing
Distal	Back of
Etiology	Cause of

“If you find your own writing boring, so will somebody else.”

Michael Dirda, Washington Post Book Section, at the NIH Plain Language Award Ceremony

Plain language Examples for Patients (Make it relevant.)

- DEXAMETHASONE (Baycadron) “This can help with a queasy stomach and also creates an appetite.”
- DIAZEPAM (Valium) “Valium is a short-acting medicine that can help with feelings of worry.”

Tips for presenting

- Smile!
- Use your hands
- Show enthusiasm with your face and movement
- Pause and breathe to avoid um and uh
- Time yourself and practice, practice, practice
- Slow it down so we can understand everything

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