

THE SEISMOGRAM

News and info to help our student and early-career scientists advance their careers

Seismological Society of America:
Advancing Earthquake Science Worldwide

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How to Deliver a High-Impact Presentation



Presenting at the Annual Meeting is one of the most important ways you can connect with the international seismology community--your peers, your mentors, your prospective employers--and show them why your research matters. Read on for tips from SSA veterans and the 2018 recipients of the [Student Presentation Award](#). Below they share their thoughts on how to deliver a clear, concise and memorable presentation--and make the most of this exciting opportunity.

Paul Geimer

Keeping an even pace in a presentation doesn't mean spending equal time on each slide. Give complicated figures extra time for explanation and quickly flip through any

introduction or transition slides.

Introduce all new figures completely before any data discussion. Especially dense figures should be built up one step at a time using animations to keep the audience's focus where you want it to be.

Respect everyone's time and allow yourself to present at a comfortable pace by aiming to end a minute before the time limit.

Gavin Hayes

When planning a talk or any presentation, it's always good to ask the question, "What are the three key things I want people to take away from this talk?" and then focus your talk on communicating those issues.

Tiegan Hobbs

Understand the overall goals of your technical session.

Try to make sure that any person, regardless of their specific background within earth sciences, can understand your talk and its significance.

Rachel Marzen

If you take a couple of seconds to pause before changing the slide, you give yourself time to think about what you want to say next and you give your audience the chance to better understand the information displayed on the slide.

Emily Morton

Keep it simple. After working so hard on a project, there is a temptation to try to put every little bit into a presentation, but this can be overwhelming for the audience. Focus on the key points of your work and results. If the audience wants/needs more information, they'll ask!

Less text = better. No one wants to read a novel on slides or a poster, especially when you're there to talk about it. Text should be minimal and serve to remind you of key points to discuss.

Practice, practice, practice! It may feel silly to repeat your presentation over and over by yourself or to a group of friends/colleagues, but it makes all the difference. I have a cat that doesn't like when I project my voice and bites me while I practice, so your practices can't be any worse than that!

Karen Pearson

Remember that no one knows your own research topic as well as you do.

Mauricio Reyes Canales

Always try to capture people's attention with a good introduction and a clear conclusion/take away.

If you are not a native English speaker, check both the grammar and the pronunciation of your sentences.

Hugo Yepes

Always think about the audience. Do not try to show them how much you know about the topic but try to get reciprocity from them. If you receive meaningful questions after the presentation, you have achieved this objective.

Reminder: Global Travel Grants Due Soon

This month all students who have been SSA members for at least six months are invited to apply for Global Travel Grants to attend any workshops or small meetings in the U.S. or abroad that support their study of earthquake science or seismology.



SSA will accept applications until 28 February for travel between 1 April and 30 September 2019. Decisions will be announced in April.

For more details and to apply, visit [the global travel grant web page](#).

Please note: this travel grant does not provide funds for travel to SSA's Annual Meeting.

Ethics Matter

We are an organization because our members are focused on the same science. We are a community because we show respect to one another and operate with integrity.

That is why SSA established an official Code of Conduct last year. It serves as a reminder that each of us shares the responsibility to keep our Annual Meeting a safe, productive and welcoming experience for all who attend.

This year SSA has also added in a new Ethics Policy. Approved by the Board of Directors in November 2018, the policy puts in writing the expectation that we have always had for our members: adhere to the highest ethical standards of conduct in every SSA interaction at every level.

Please read the complete Ethics Policy [online](#).

Stay Connected to Our Community

[Follow SSA on LinkedIn](#) to stay up-to-date with important Society news, including reminders about upcoming deadlines for grant submissions and calls for papers.

Send your feedback on this newsletter, good seismology jokes and ideas for future issues to info@seismosoc.org.



Seismological Society of America

400 Evelyn Avenue, Suite 201
Albany, CA 94706-1375
United States

Email info@seismosoc.org

Call us: 510-525-5474

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