How does your research complement, enhance, or impact your colleagues’ work?

The intellectual context of your work is important. Explain how your work differs from that done in the past and fits into accepted practice or, if it doesn’t fit, explain how that practice should change.

Assess your audience.

Be careful of specialist jargon and explain all acronyms. A broad audience may require additional background explanation.

State up front how your work fits into the communications industry.

Incorporate a business context, but don’t dumb-down your science. Your audience wants to know your work will improve or innovate products, services, and the communications infrastructure we use every day. If you can’t imagine how your work can be implemented in the business sense, you probably know someone else who will. Ask a colleague what he or she thinks is the most practical aspect of the work.

Inform and educate.

Try to be conversational. Do not read your presentation. Anyone can read all the details in the paper published in the proceedings. Make sure you cover all the highlights and the salient points to explain your presentation. Your audience may not know very much about your work; they want to learn something about you and your ideas. Don’t get distracted. Tell the audience whether you want questions during or after your presentation.

Highlight the core concept – What do you think is the most significant aspect of your presentation?

Focus on the single most important facet of this work. Often the core concept bears repetition. Say the same thing in different ways. An audience may need to hear a different perspective to understand the impact of your work.

How could your perspective be applied in other specialist areas?

Think creatively about the usefulness of your work. Speculate on possible practical applications and/or case studies. What may at first appear absurd can stimulate creative possibilities. Let yourself go.
How does your innovation improve the design, development, or the process, or make implementation easier?

Don’t be modest. Tell your audience why your ideas make progress or are better than the status quo.

Will your innovation impact standards or regulatory guidelines?

If your work impacts standards, examine which standards and how this impacts products and services.

Be yourself.

Comfort adds to the effectiveness of your presentation. Let your character emerge as much as you can. Everyone has his/her own style. Your unique talents, skills, experience, personality and self-image complement your words. Self-assurance adds immeasurably to a convincing presentation.

T

hrough surveys, communications engineers indicate that there is a need for more information on practical applications in communications technologies. These tips are offered to help add an applications perspective to technical presentations where practical applicability may not be apparent. These tips should be considered as complementary to common procedures used for preparation of technical presentations, such as time management, slide show development, and practice.

Bonus Tip

Stimulate your audience with an attractive PowerPoint® presentation. Use graphics to support or enhance your ideas. Mix text with charts, graphs, illustrations, logos, and other visual stimuli. If the venue is appropriate and you are comfortable with animations and audio files, use them. A visually stimulating presentation adds another dimension to your ideas.

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For authors or conference presenters of original technical research, theoretical concepts, or educational material.

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