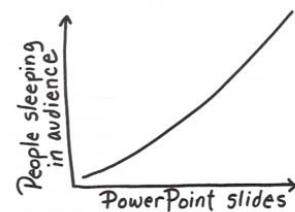


Is There an End to Death by PowerPoint?

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Have you grown weary of PowerPoint presentations that present a great deal of text and then are read to you by the presenter? Would you prefer to see graphics and key points, enabling you to listen to the material being presented? In her book, *Indexed*, Jessica Hagy indicates there is a direct correlation between the number of PowerPoint slides and the number of people sleeping in the audience. (Hagy, 2008) Pecha Kucha and other web resources can be of great assistance in putting an end to *Death PowerPoint*.

Some are compelled to nod, the rest just nod off.



by

Architects Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham, in Japan, created Pecha Kucha. Their goal was to give designers a chance to meet, show their work and network with others. (Wikipedia) Pecha Kucha, pronounced, “peh-chak-cha” is a PowerPoint presentation format where the presenter shows twenty slides for a period of twenty seconds each for a total of six minutes and forty seconds. The term pecha-kucha refers to the sound of conversation or chit-chat.



Pecha Kucha Nights are held worldwide. Presenters generally come from



the design, architecture, photography, art, and creative fields. Pecha Kucha is beginning to be carried over to the academic and business. (Pecha Kucha, 2009) “Businesses use the Pecha Kucha format, especially for internal presentations, primarily as a device to limit the length of presentations, force presenters to focus their messages, reduce interruptions, and ultimately avoid “death by PowerPoint”.” (Pecha Kucha, 2009)

Using Pecha Kucha, presenters are forced to develop a thorough understanding of their material so they can get to the point in a limited amount of time. When giving a presentation, style and technique are incredibly important using the Pecha Kucha technique. Pecha Kucha presentations are typically heavily laden with graphics rather than text. This presentation format makes it difficult to go into significant detail on the topic, however, when combined with discussion afterwards it can work well.

Presentation Zen (<http://www.presentationzen.com/>) is another great resource for re-thinking the design of PowerPoint presentations. The following articles are available on their website:

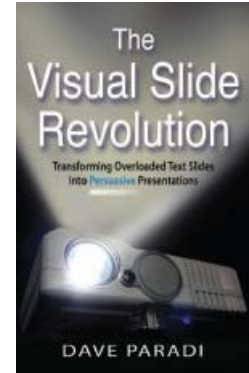
- *What is Good PowerPoint Design*, September 5, 2005. The importance of simplicity, content and context are discussed; examples of visual makeover slides are presented.
- *Brain Rules for PowerPoint and Keynote Presenters*, May 20, 2008. Discussed the book Brain Rules by John Medina and key takeaways from the book.
- *Pecha Kucha and the Art of Liberating Constraints*, September 27, 2008. The article discusses practical applications as well as provides examples.

Another tactic to end *Death by PowerPoint* is to follow the strategies identified by Mr. Dave Paradi. How to make more effective presentations and a wealth of other resources are available on his website at <http://www.thinkoutsidetheslide.com>:

- A seven-day PowerPoint e-course
- Bi-weekly newsletter
- Slide maker video podcast
- PowerPoint tips blog
- Numerous Resources for Presenters

In his book, The Visual Slide Revolution, Mr. Paradi discusses a five-step method that explains how to create persuasive visuals.

All of these resources should enable you to create more effective presentations and teach your students to do the same.



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