Breathe Life into Your PowerPoint

Center for Teaching Excellence

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After today you will be able to …

- Identify uses of PowerPoint with pedagogies that enhance learning
- Summarize strategies for effective PowerPoint design
Why use PowerPoint in your lectures?
Why Use PowerPoint?

- To organize and structure content
- Facilitates use of multimedia
- To accommodate diverse learning styles/preferences
- Easy to share
- Easy to modify for future use
Why might students experience frustration with lectures presented with PowerPoint?
What are the biggest challenges for students?

- Too much information on slides
- Lack of interaction
- Encourages passive learning
- Alienates learners
- Questions necessity of attending lecture
5 Ways to Breathe Life Into PowerPoint

1. Incorporate Learning Outcomes (activities and assessments)
2. Use Active Learning Strategies
3. Integrate Peer Learning
4. Effective Organization and Delivery
5. Go Beyond the Classroom
1. Incorporate Learning Outcomes

- What do I want students to learn in this lecture?
- What kind of learning opportunities can I create?
- How will I know if they have learned something?
Bloom’s Taxonomy - Learning Outcomes

http://www.odu.edu/educ/roverbau/Bloom/blooms_taxonomy.html

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Ideas Today That You Can Use Next Week
Knowing Learning Outcomes...

- Informs learning activities
- Focuses your lecture presentation
- Helps define assessment techniques

Knowing Learning Outcomes
2. Engage Students with Active Learning

What is “Active Learning”?  
When students are doing things and thinking about the things they are doing (Bonwell & Eison, 1991)

Research suggests that incorporating active learning with PowerPoint lectures augments student learning (Clark, 2008 & Gier & Kreiner, 2009).
Active Learning Strategies

Think-Pair-Share or Write-Pair-Share

- Give students a minute to respond to a prompt
- Students share with a partner
- Choose a few students/groups to share with the class
Other Active Learning Strategies

- Illustrate a concept with a short video and have students analyze
- Use multimedia to stimulate a debate or discussion
- Incorporate Clickers to collect and display responses to any number of questions
Example: Getting & Embedding Video


Example: Video downloaded using keepvid.com and iLivid software. Saved into same folder as ppt and then embedded into ppt.
3. Incorporate Peer Learning

In slides, provide opportunities for students to learn from each other

- Turn to a partner and test them on content up to that point in lecture
- Discuss or debate a topic with a partner
- Compare notes or ask clarifying questions in pairs/small groups
Example 1

You have 2 minutes.
Come up with a good question.
Turn to a partner and see if you can stump him/her.

Think-Pair-Share
Example 2: Discuss

Group of 3 or 4. Middle students take notes.
Discuss topic for 1 minute.

“The way PowerPoint is used determines the level of engaged learning and teaching effectiveness.”
Example 3

Stop!
Turn to a partner:
1. Compare notes
2. Ask clarifying questions
You have 2 minutes.
Brainstorm with a partner:

How do students learn best?

How can this be incorporated in PowerPoint Design?
4. Organization and Delivery:

How Do Students Learn Best?

✦ Recall/ repetition (Taylor, 2008)
✦ Experiencing material in multiple ways
✦ Connecting things to “real life” examples (Ambrose, et. al, 2010)
✦ Connecting new knowledge with previous knowledge
✦ Variety of learning activities (independent/ group work)
✦ Within a community
At the Beginning of a Lecture

- Motivate with a visual hook
- Frame with lecture agenda
- Set expectations with desired outcomes
- Stimulate prior knowledge by brainstorming
- Check background knowledge or existing attitudes with classroom polls
- Recall previous lecture with quick quiz
Question

How often should you incorporate Active Learning techniques?

A. As much as possible
B. Once or twice
C. Every 10-15 minutes or so
D. Never
Throughout Your Lecture

- Do active learning activities every 10-15 minutes
- Provide opportunities for individual and group learning activities
- Present lecture material in multiple ways
- Check student progress with assessment techniques
At the End of Your Lecture

- **Review**: present 2-3 brief questions for students to answer

- **Check comprehension**: students write about the muddiest point of the lecture (collect these verbally or on index cards)

- **Apply what was learned**: have students write about one or two important things they have learned and how it can be applied in their daily lives (this info can be collected)
Write 2 new strategies for effective PowerPoint design that you intend to try.
5. Use PowerPoint Outside of Class

If you provide electronic handouts of your PowerPoint, you can:

- Provide a skeletal overview
- Include hyperlinks to relevant articles, videos or other multimedia
- Prompt students to find information, answer questions or create questions before class
Why PowerPoints can be frustrating for students
My Guesses: ________________________________
1.
2.
3.
4.
See this video “Death by PowerPoint”
What is one question you have about this topic?
Example slide (for class):

Why PowerPoints can be frustrating for students

1. Not interactive
2. Alienating
3. Passive teaching/learning
4. Purpose for attending class questionable
Other ways to engage students using PowerPoint

Welcome to

Who Wants to be a Millionaire

http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm

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Ideas Today That You Can Use Next Week
Questions?

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References


More resources

- TED talks
- *Advanced Presentation by Design*, Andrew Abela
- *Beyond Bullet Points*, Cliff Atkinson
- *Resonate*, Nancy Duarte
- *Presentation Zen*, Garr Reynolds