

That's SO meta!

A (good?) talk on how to give a good talk



Chris Mayne

What are some
characteristics of a BAD talk?

a GOOD talk?

Disclaimer:

1. I am a scientist, so I will be discussing advice related to my nerdy discipline. You should consult your mentor about yours.
2. I will be breaking some of my rules!
(this is not a research talk and I want these slides to serve as a resource for you)

***Let's have a discussion!**

Considerations for a research talk

1. Audience
2. Time
3. Organization
4. Formatting and Visuals
5. Presentation Style

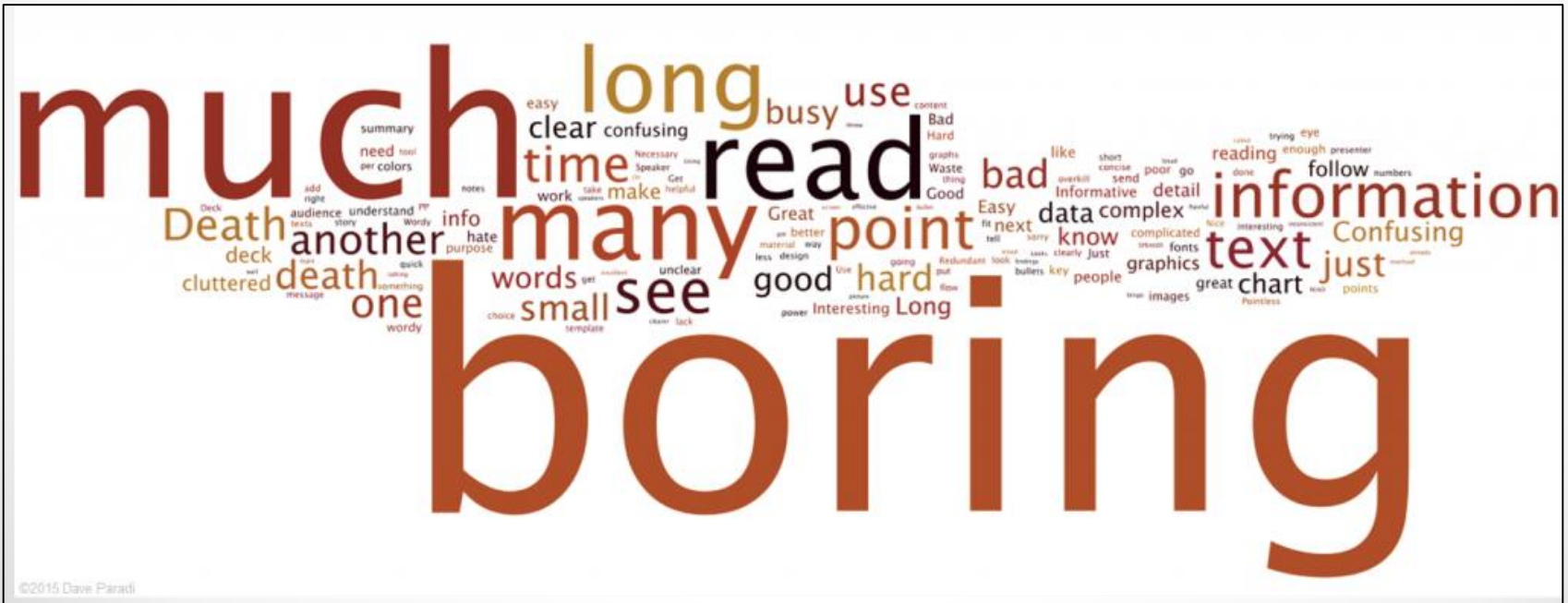
The Audience

- Who are they?
- Why do they care?
- What is the format?
Discussion or not?
- What do they **NEED** to know to understand?
- Shared vocabulary?
AVOID jargon!



Time

- going over time is a MAJOR problem
- shows that you do not respect the audience
- loss of credibility
- aim for ≤ 1 slide per minute and PRACTICE



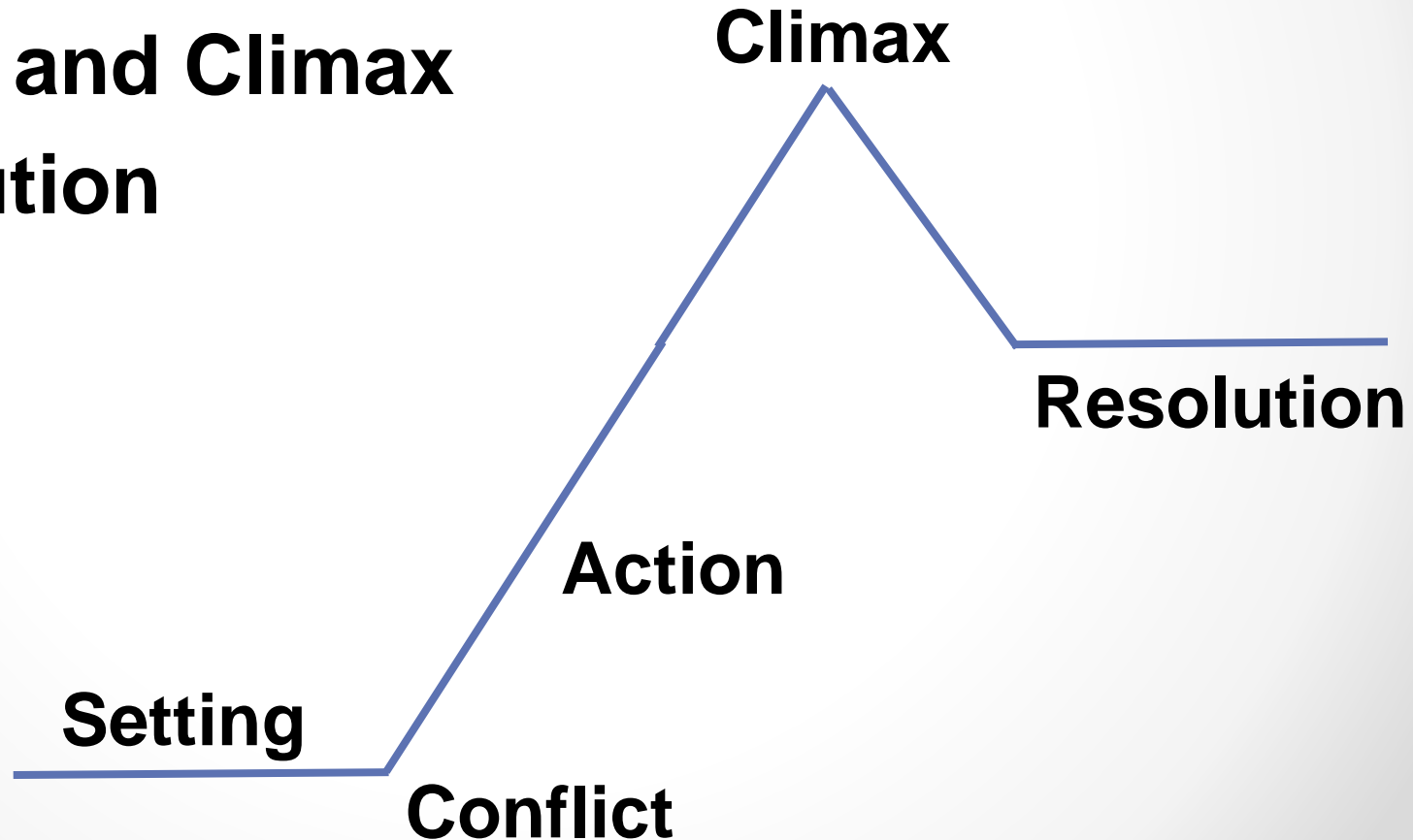
Time

- going over time is a MAJOR problem
- shows that you do not respect the audience
- loss of credibility
- aim for ≤ 1 slide per minute and PRACTICE!

**DON'T tell them
EVERYTHING you know!**

Organization: Tell a Story

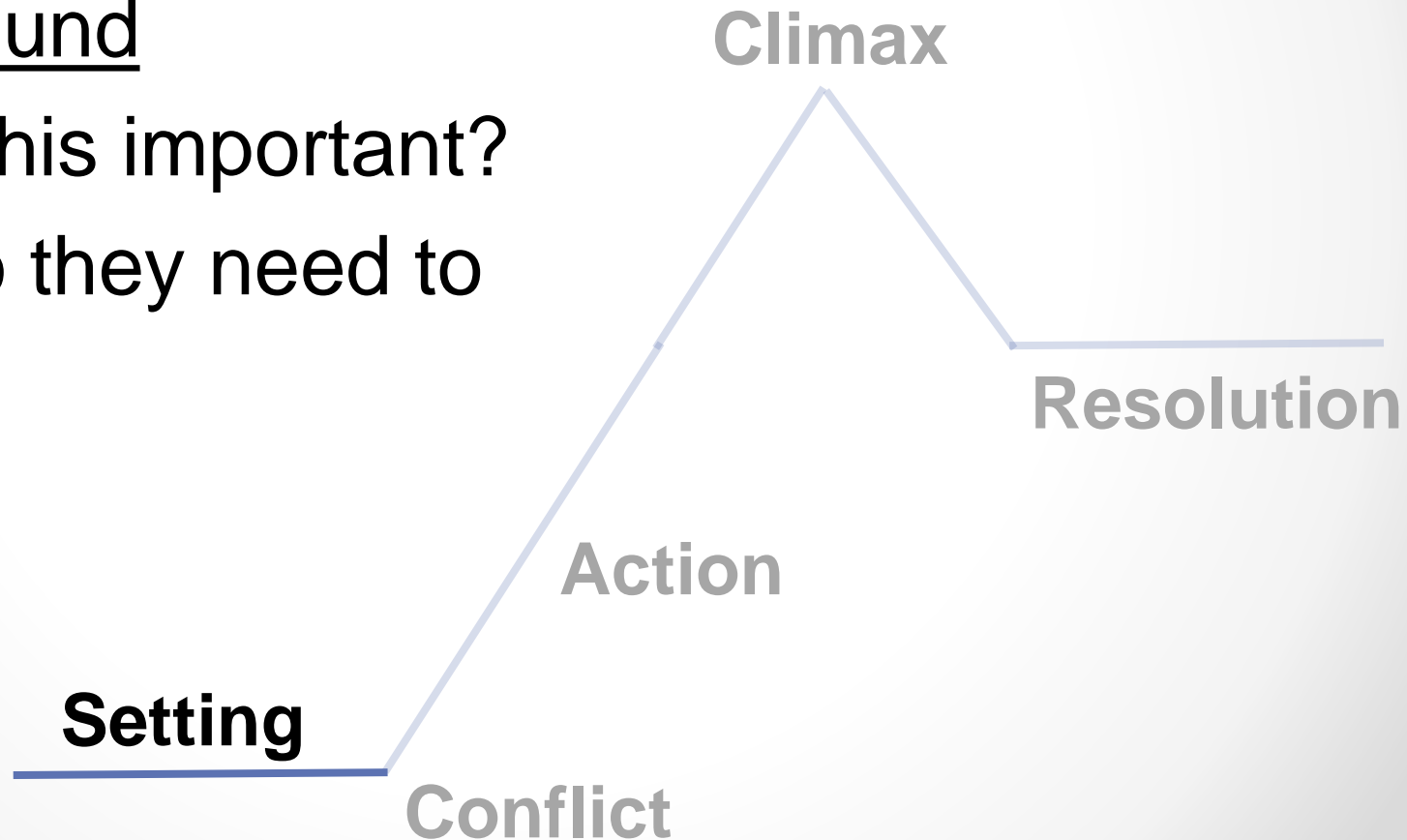
1. **Setting**
2. **Conflict**
3. **Action and Climax**
4. **Resolution**



Organization: Tell a Story

1. Setting

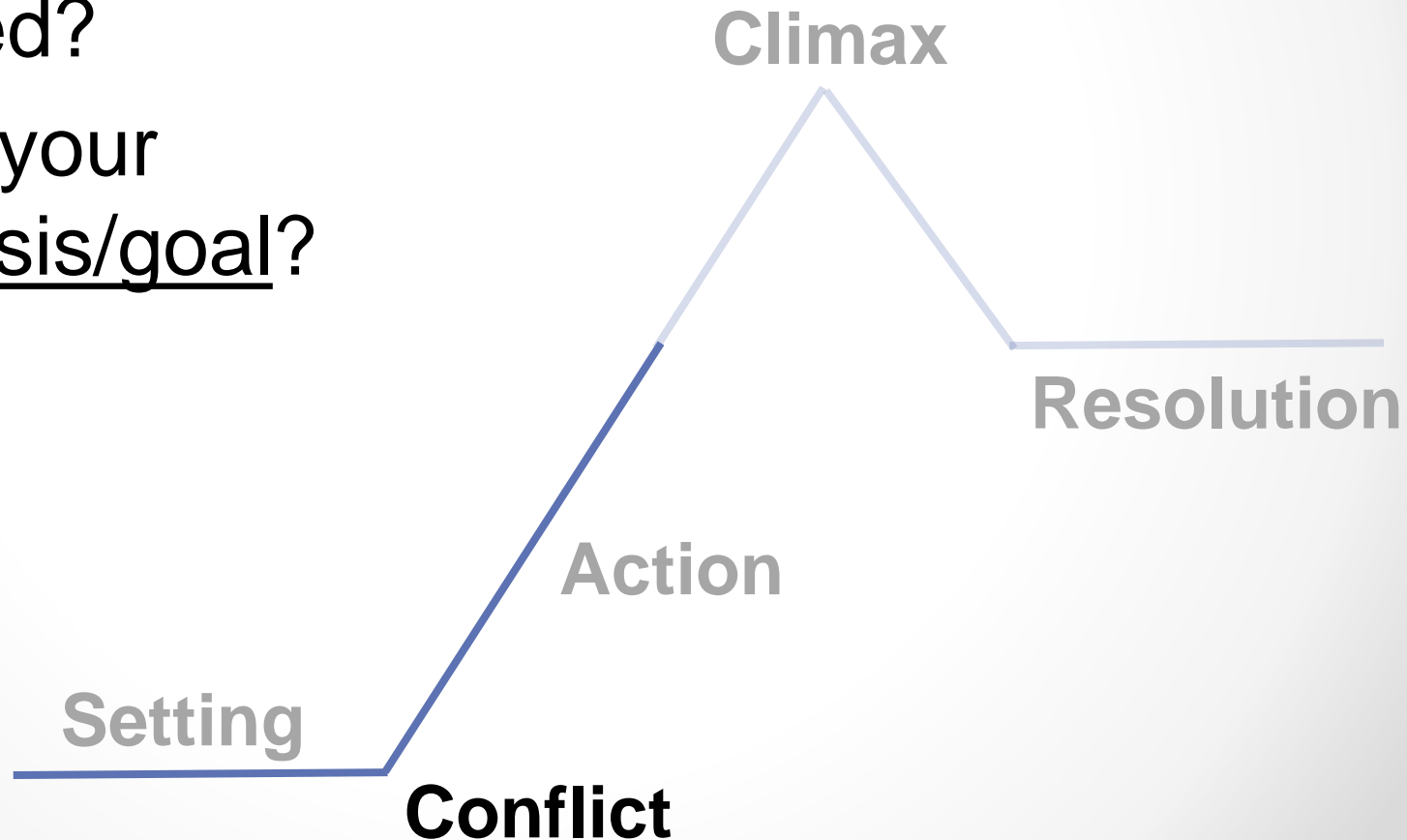
- Introduction and Background
- Why is this important?
- What do they need to know?



Organization: Tell a Story

2. Conflict

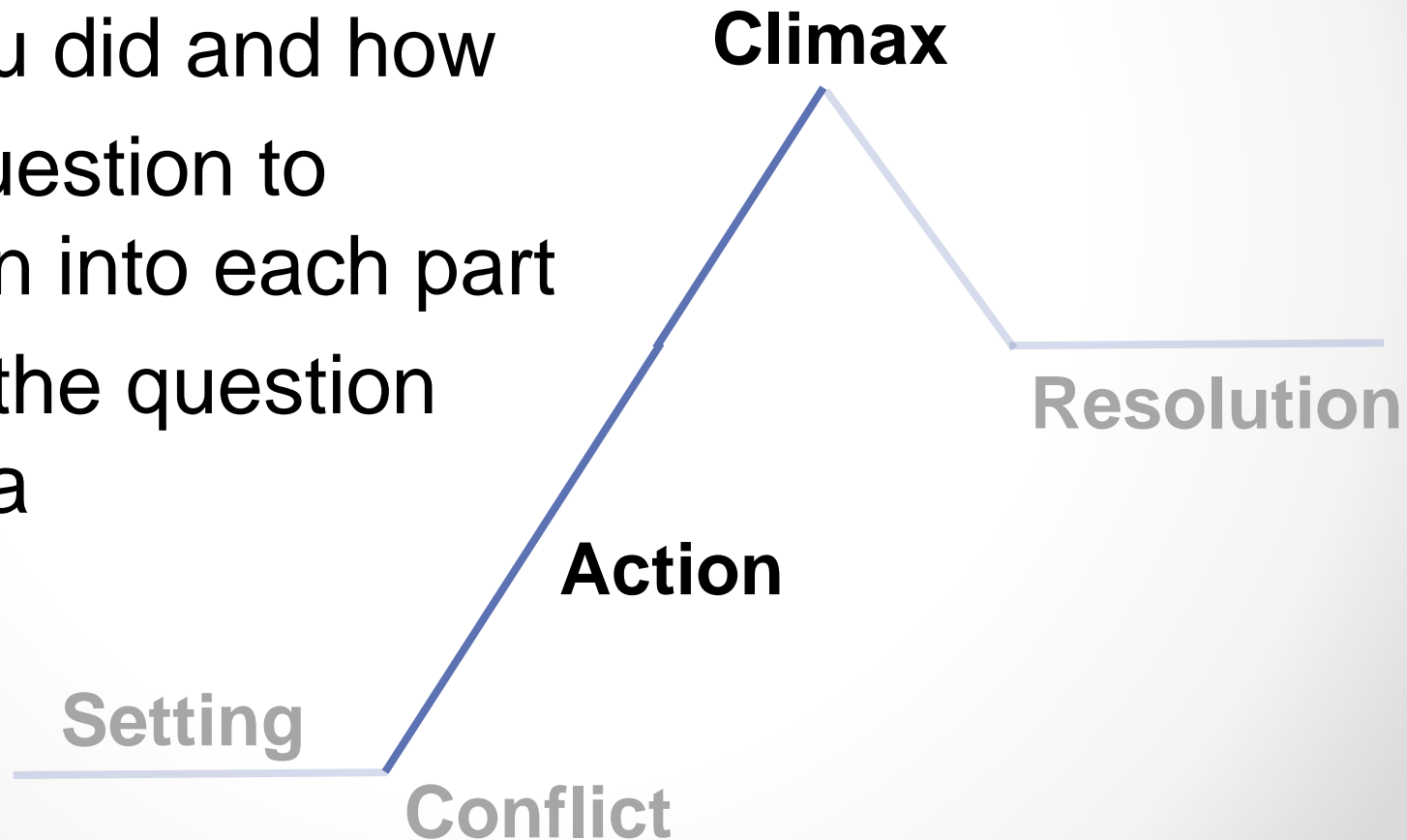
- What is the problem to be solved?
- What is your hypothesis/goal?



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

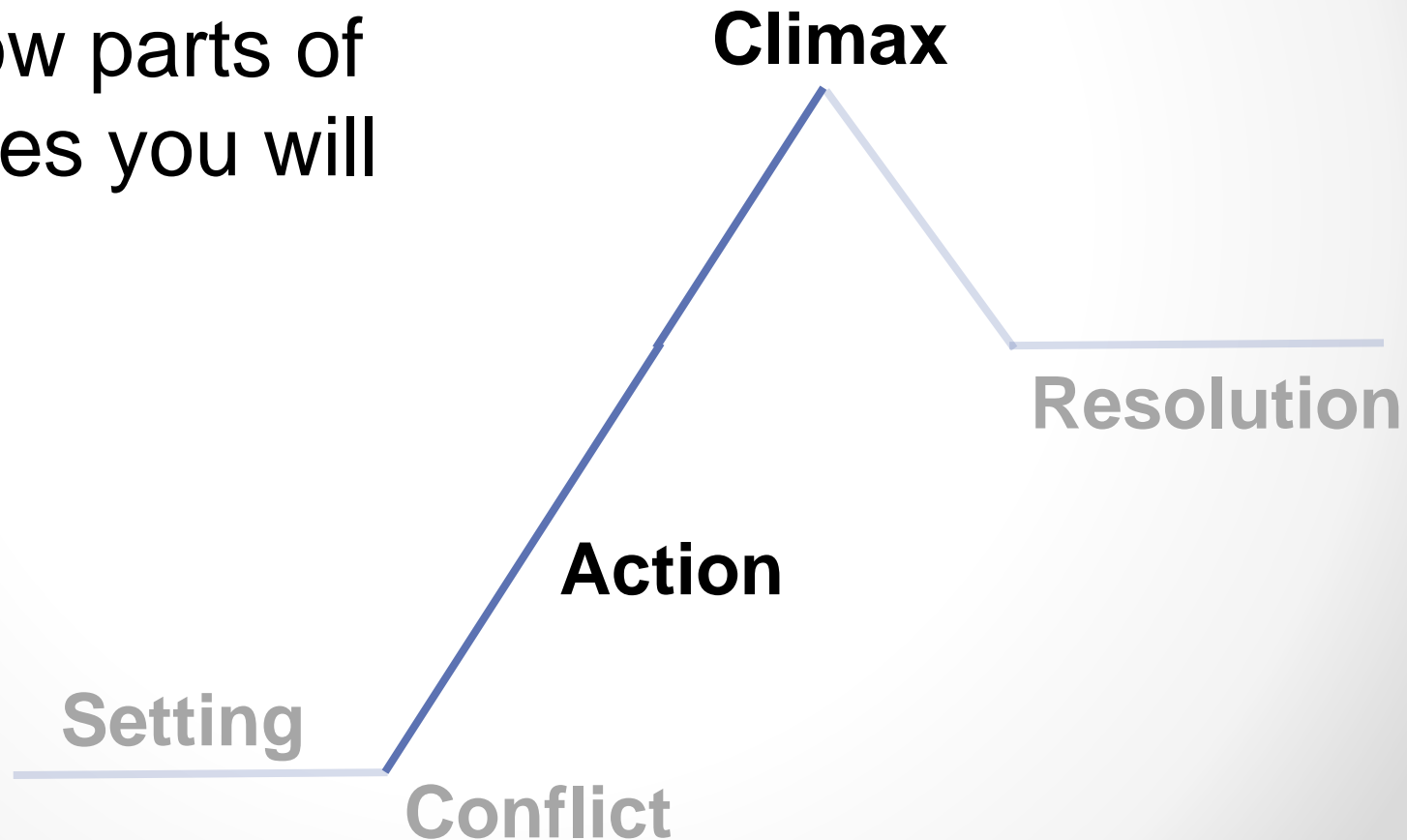
- Methods and Results
- what you did and how
- use a question to transition into each part
- answer the question with data



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

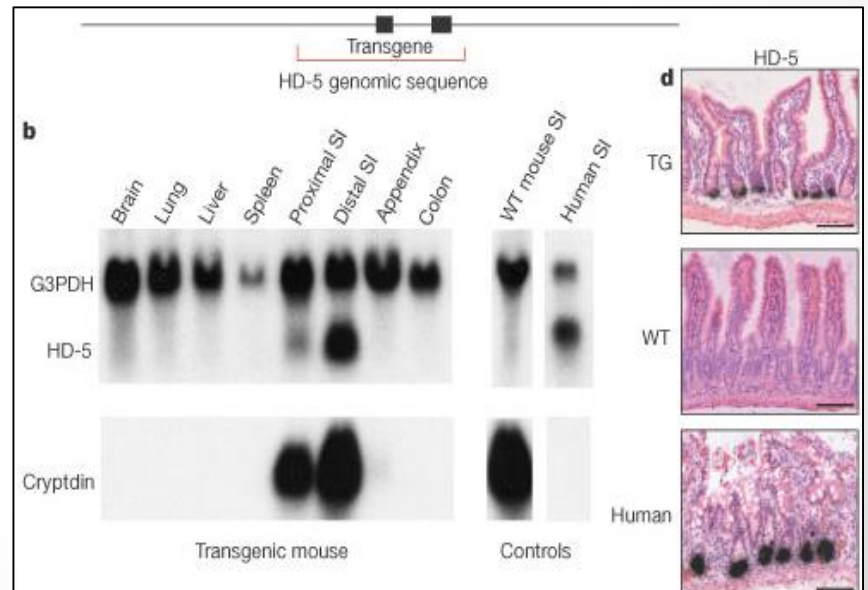
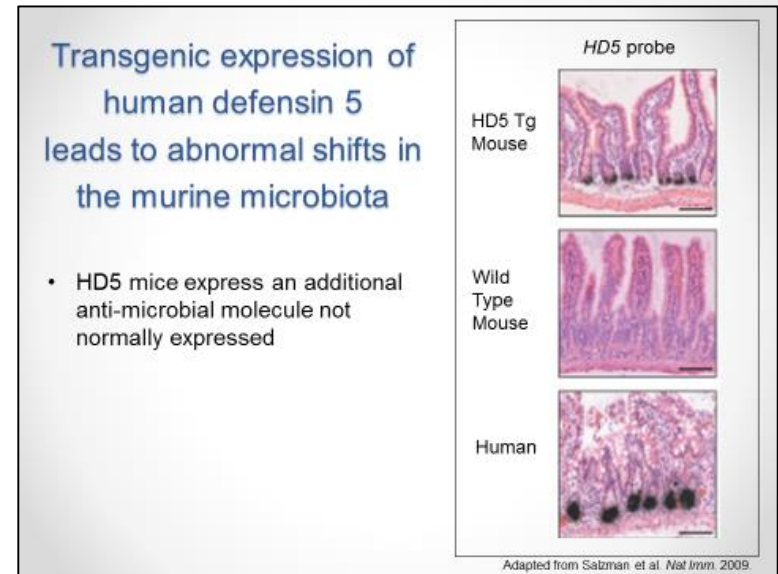
- Methods and Results
- only show parts of the figures you will discuss



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

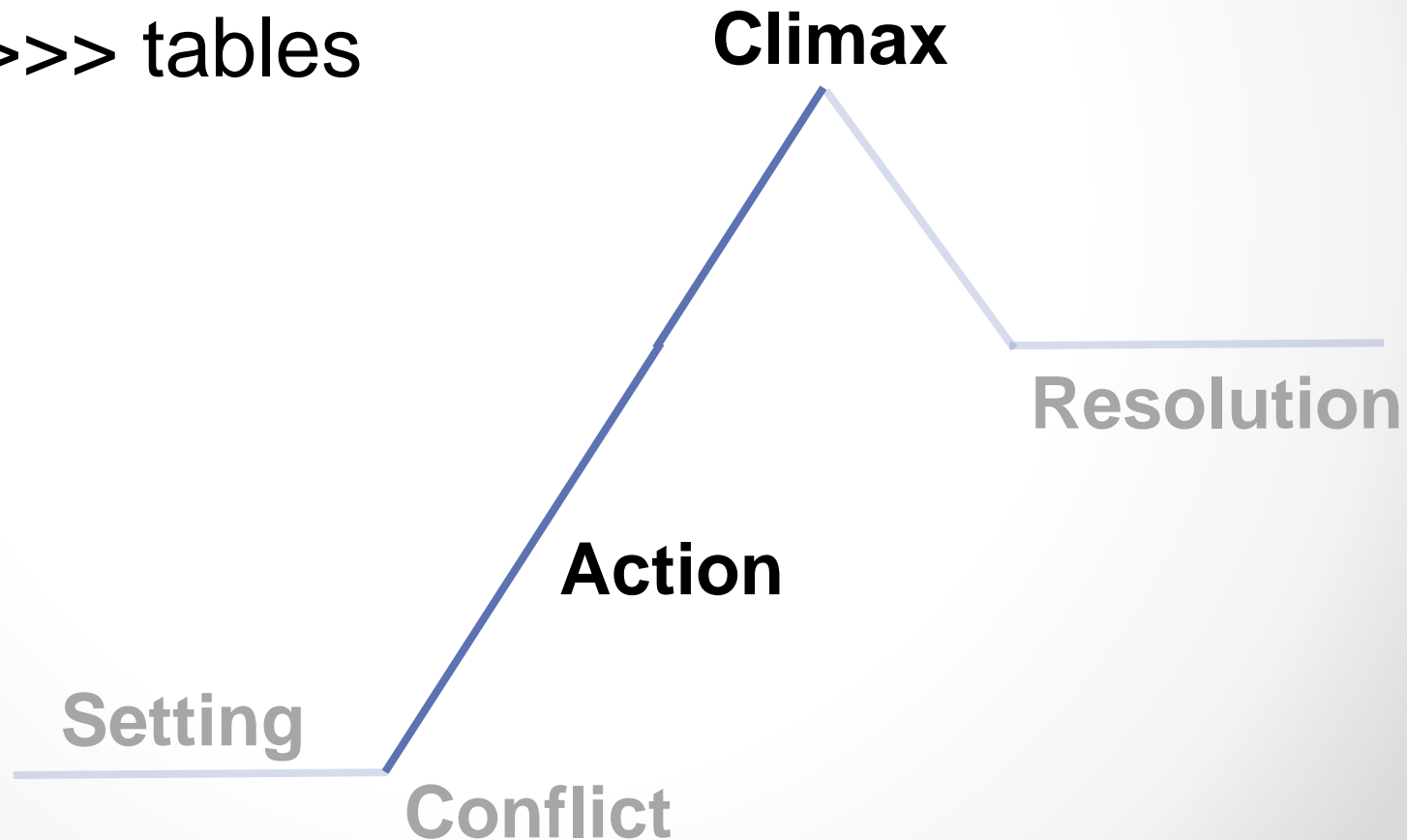
- Methods and Results
- only show parts of the figures you will discuss



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

- Methods and Results
- graphs >>> tables



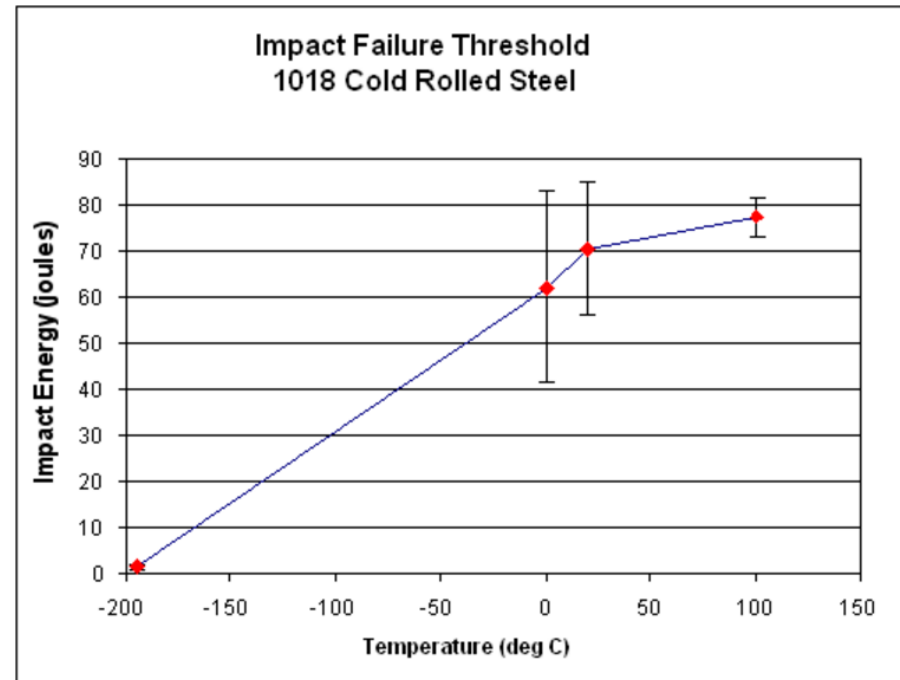
Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

- Methods and Results
- graphs >>> tables

Table 5. Impact failure threshold of 1018 cold rolled steel

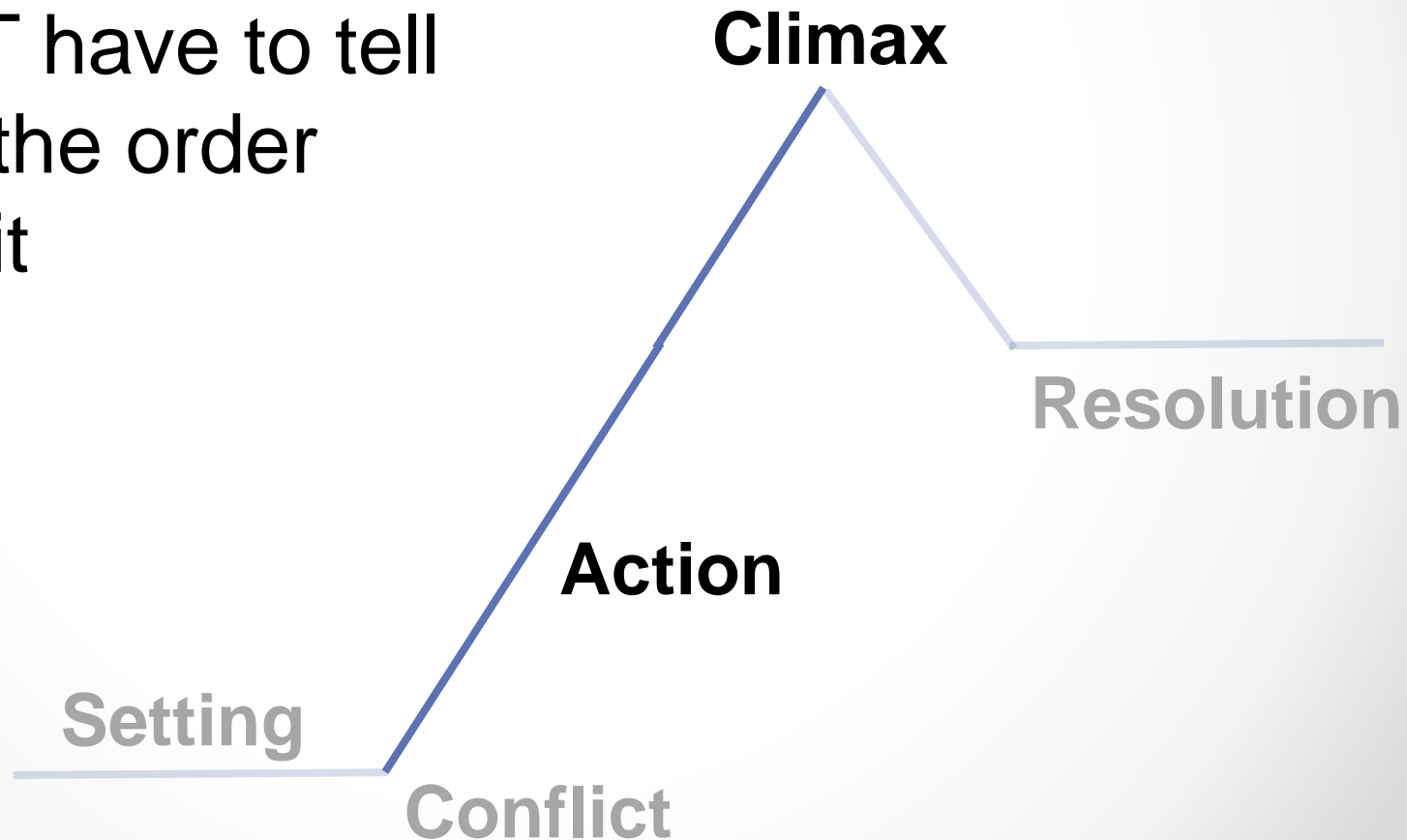
Temperature (deg C)	Impact Energy (joules)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation
-195	1.4	0.55
0	62.2	20.79
20	70.4	14.45
100	77.3	4.32



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

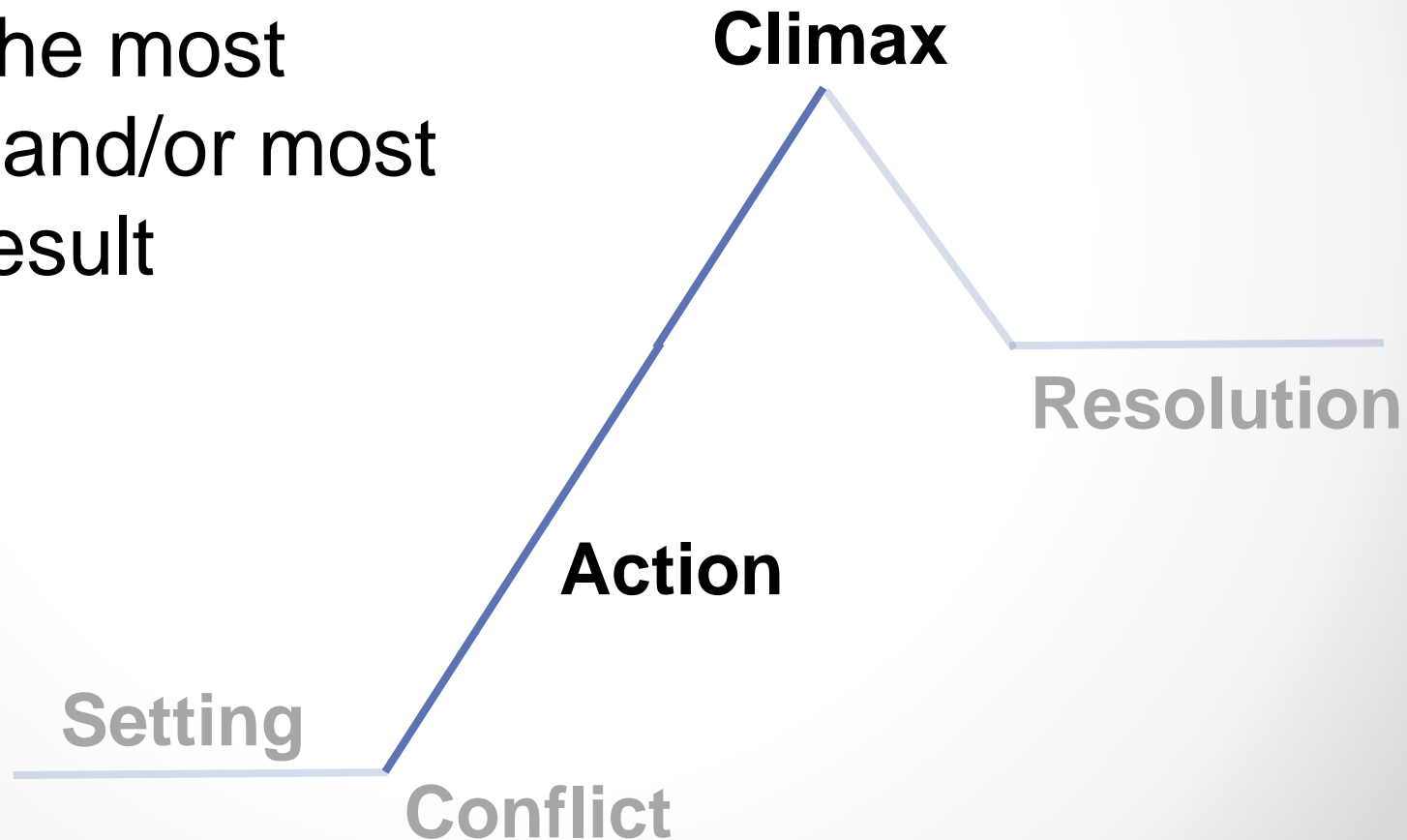
- Methods and Results
- DO NOT have to tell story in the order you did it



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Action and Climax

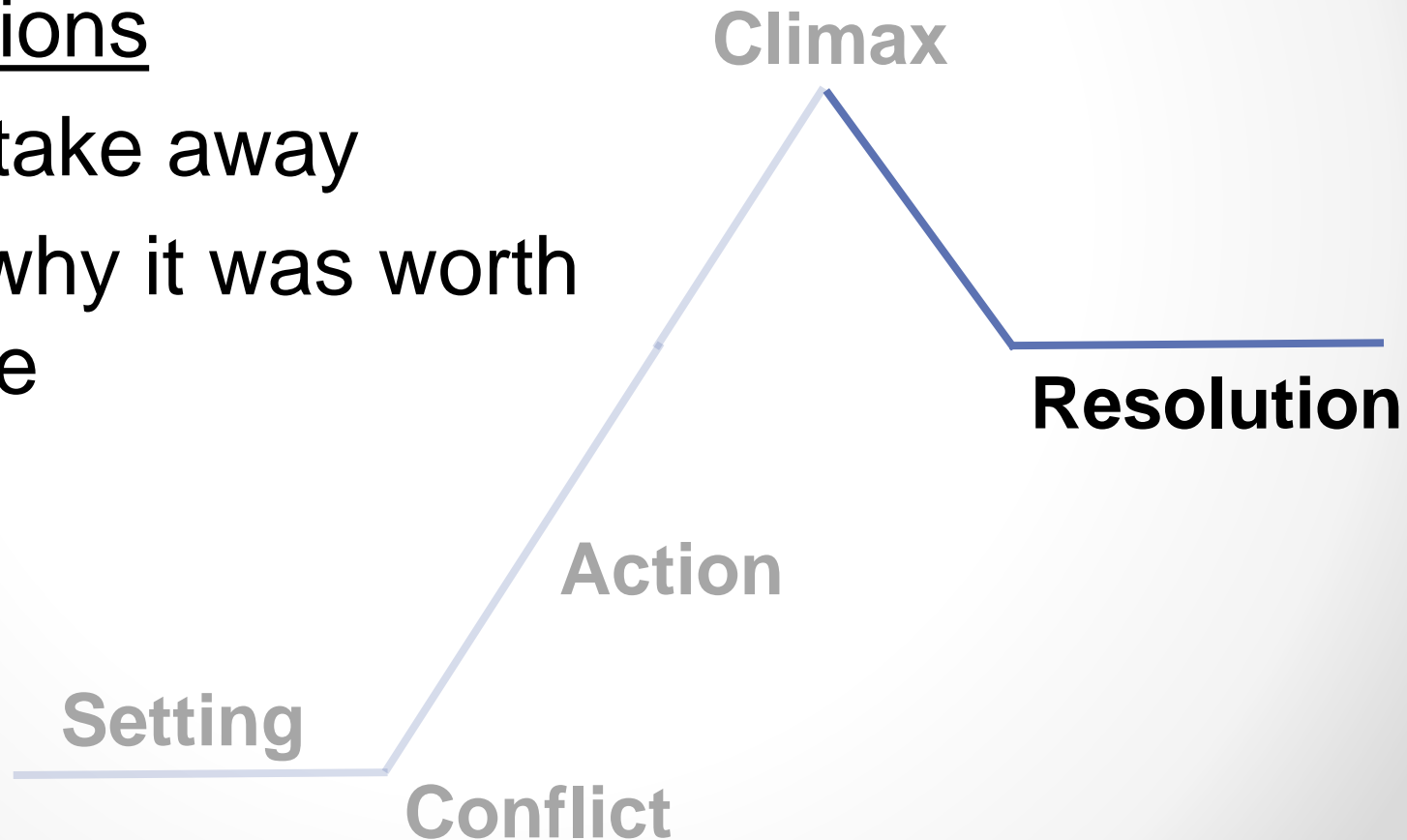
- Methods and Results
- lead to the most exciting and/or most FINAL result



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Resolution

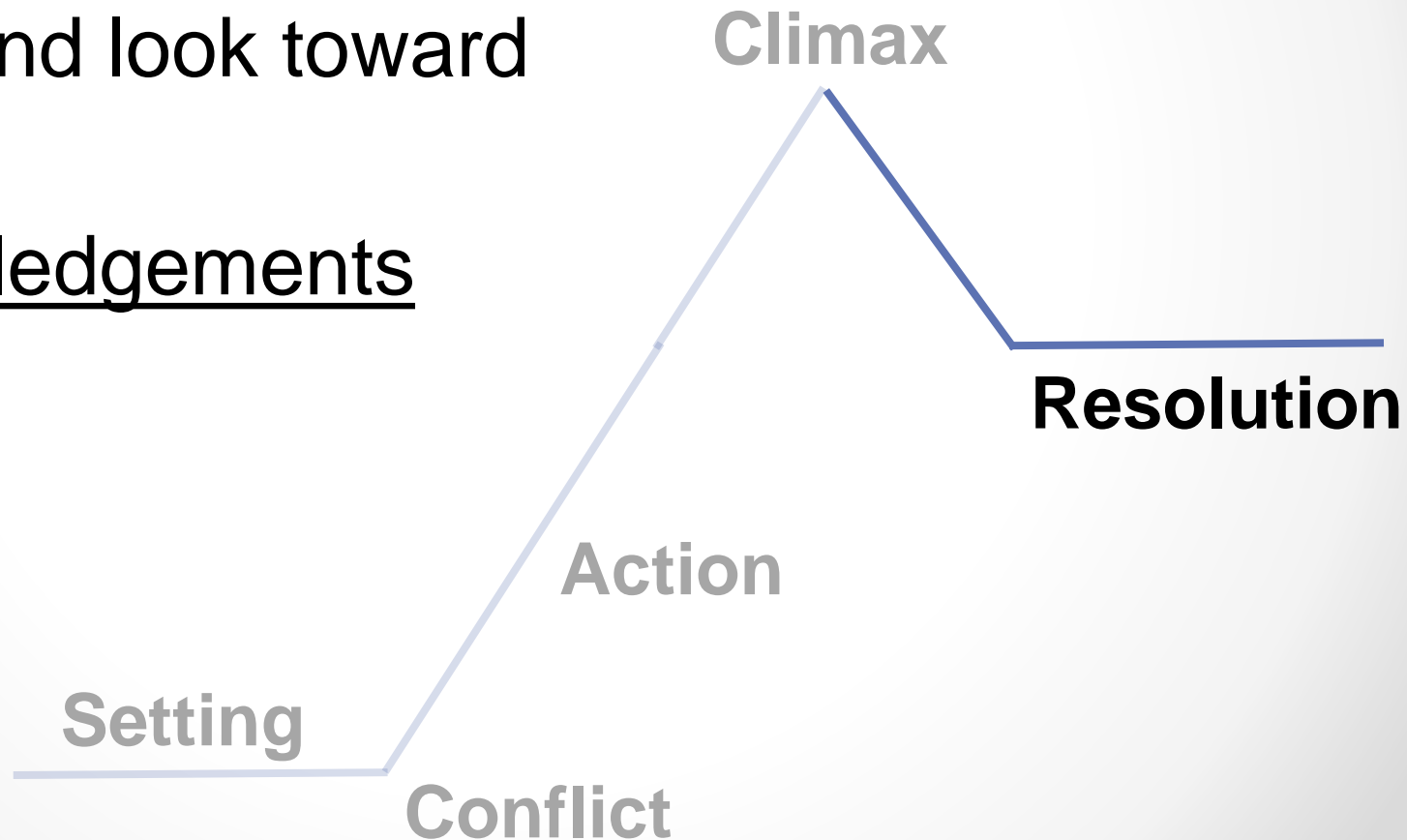
- Summary and Conclusions
- what to take away
- remind why it was worth their time



Organization: Tell a Story

3. Resolution

- Future Directions
- reflect and look toward future
- Acknowledgements



- What are some examples of annoying visuals and formatting?

Formatting/Visuals:

Don't distract from the message

- use solid black/white background or very subtle gradient
- avoid distracting animations
- a simple appear/disappear is the only animation ever needed

Formatting/Visuals:

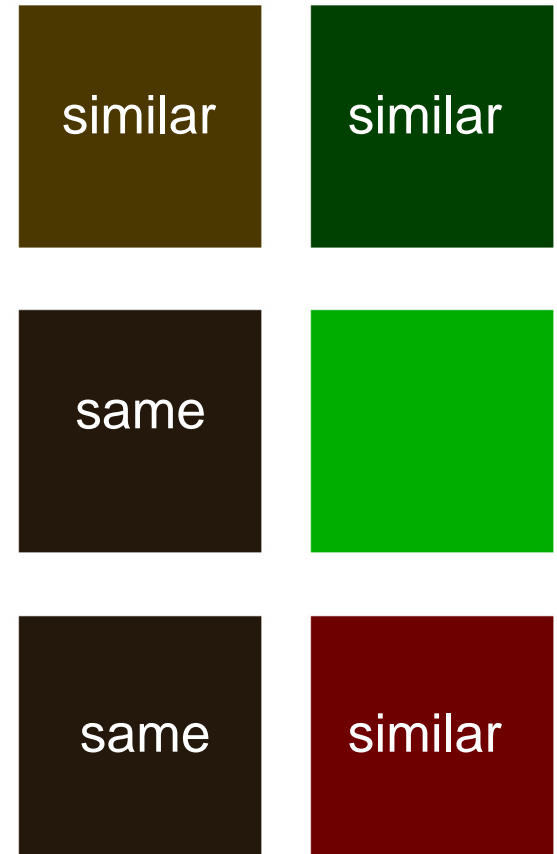
Don't distract from the message

- use solid black/white background or very subtle gradient
- avoid distracting animations
- a simple appear/disappear is the only animation ever needed

Formatting/Visuals:

Don't distract from the message

- use color selectively to draw attention
- try to use differing brightness/patterns
 - > 1/25 people will be colorblind in a non-Viterbo population



Formatting/Visuals:

Don't distract from the message

- keep fonts consistent



D ***O*** ***N*** 't ***C*** ***H*** a ***N*** ***G*** ***E*** ***f*** ***o*** ***N*** ***T*** ***s*** .
i ***T*** ***/*** ***o*** ***o*** k s ***L*** ***i*** k ***e*** a
R ***a*** ***N*** s ***o*** m ***N*** ***o*** ***t*** e .

Formatting/Visuals:

Keep text limited and large

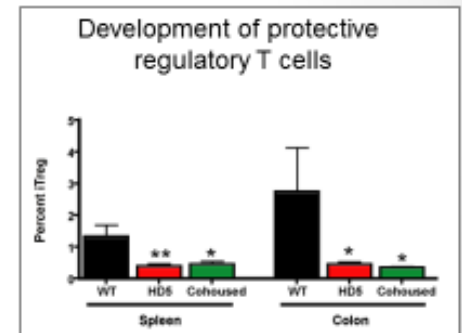
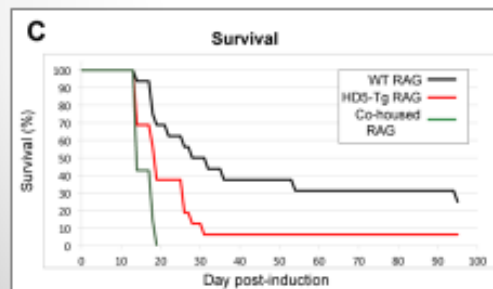
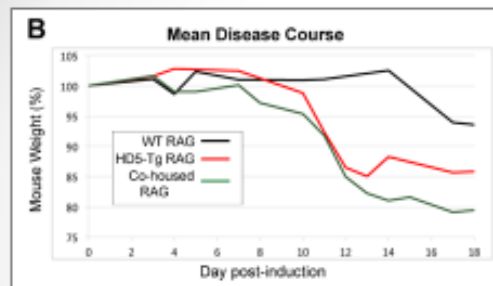
- size 28 font is the smallest except for citations, etc.
- if you need smaller, you should eliminate text
- consider eliminating slides that are all text, use pictures and “tell the story”

Formatting/Visuals:

Keep text limited and large

- don't use text on the slide for YOU, only include if for the AUDIENCE
- use “presenter view” for your reminders

Genetic shifting of the microbiota leads to significant differences in disease and T cell development





SHOW TASKBAR



DISPLAY SETTINGS ▾



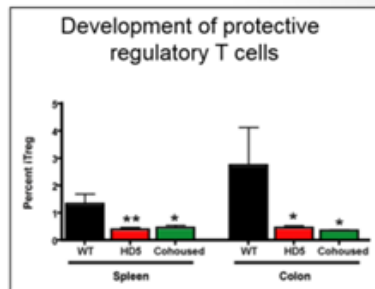
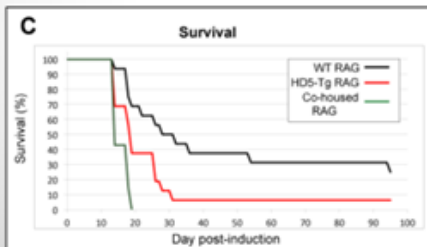
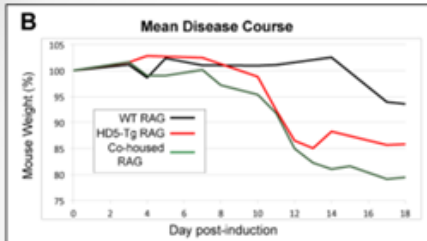
END SLIDE SHOW

0:00:07



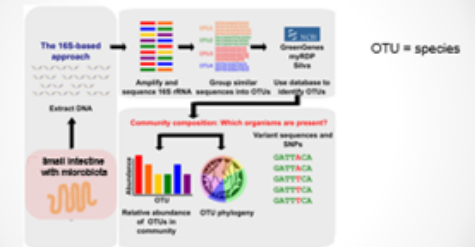
2:40 PM

Genetic shifting of the microbiota leads to significant differences in disease and T cell development



Next slide

16S rRNA gene sequencing allows characterization of bacterial communities



- Which taxa are associated with:
 - Disease? Genotype? Regulatory T cell induction?

Hey Chris. Don't be an idiot.

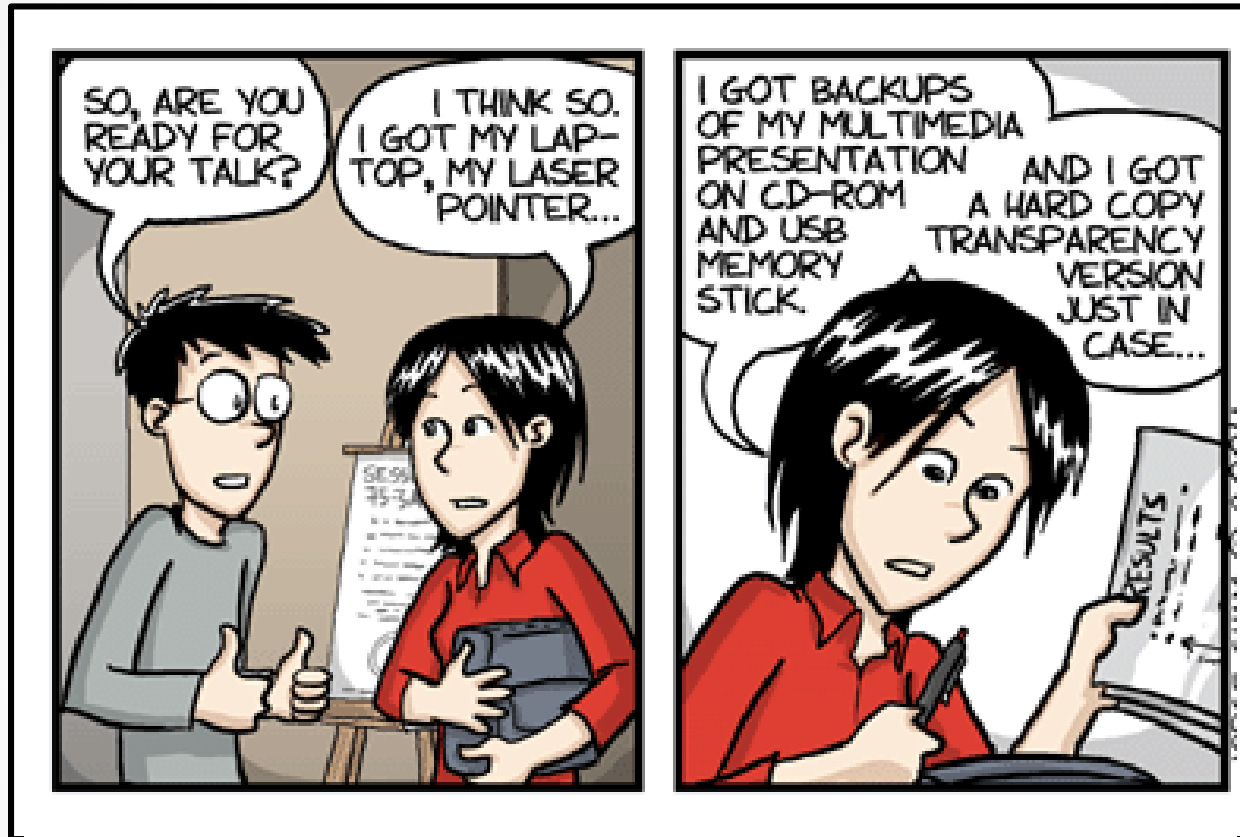


Slide 8 of 44



A A

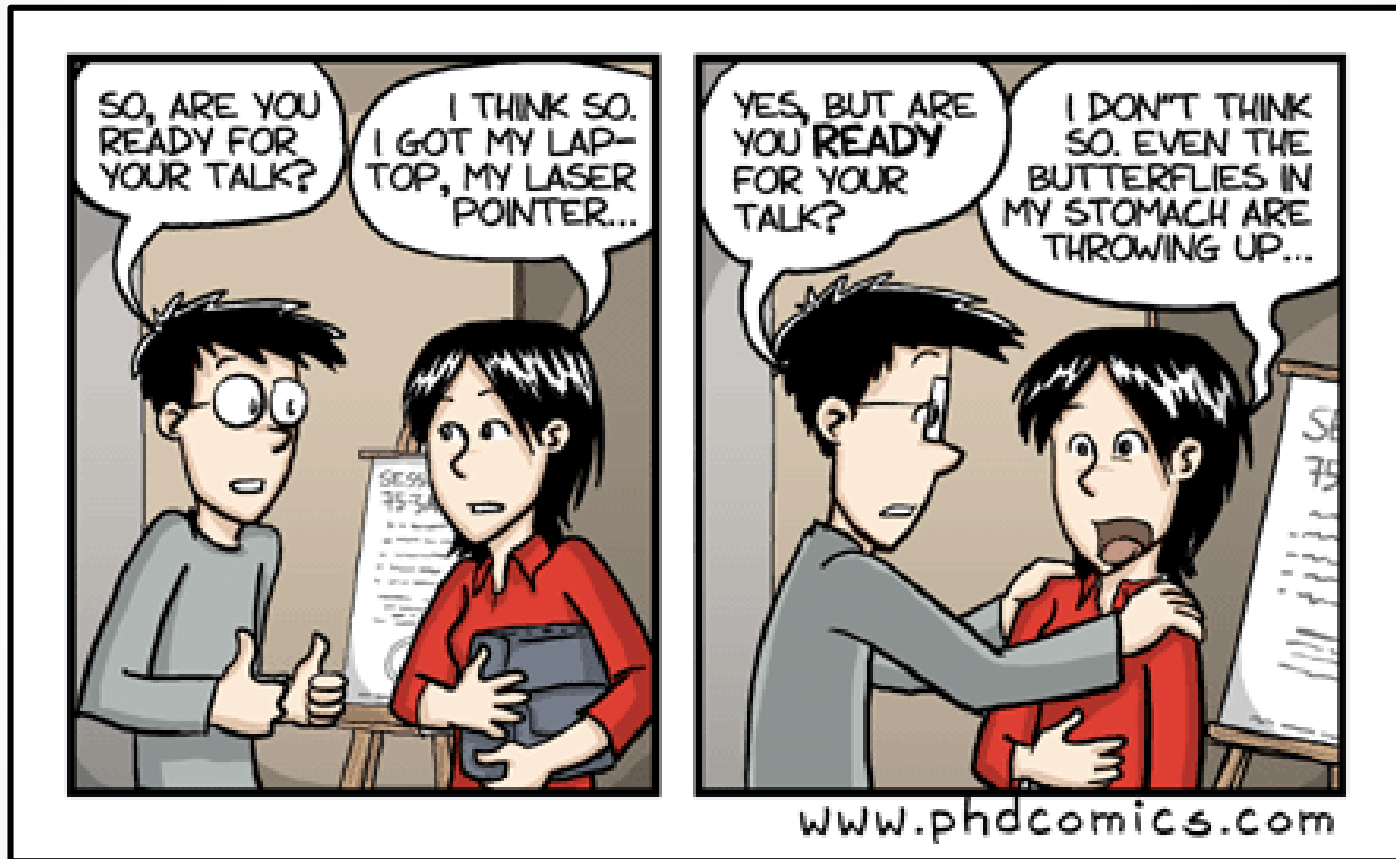
Presentation Tips: Be prepared



- practice out loud, if possible in the same room
- time and record yourself
- get honest **CRITICISM**

Presentation Tips:

Be comfortable with nerves



- a little bit of nerves are good!
- short pauses are ok, avoid “um” and “uh”

Presentation Tips:

Be enthusiastic and professional



- if you can't be excited about your work, how can the audience?
- get out from behind the podium

Presentation Tips:

Be enthusiastic and professional

Top complaints of Powerpoint talks (Paradi, 2015)

The speaker read the slides to us 71.7%

Full sentences for text 48.6%

Text too small to read 47.7%

- don't read off the slides
- talk to the audience, rotating eye contact around the room

Presentation Tips:

Be enthusiastic and professional



"I'm not sure what to do with my hands"

- draw attention to specific aspects of figures with hands, just don't flail
- if using laser pointer, use two hands

Presentation Tips:

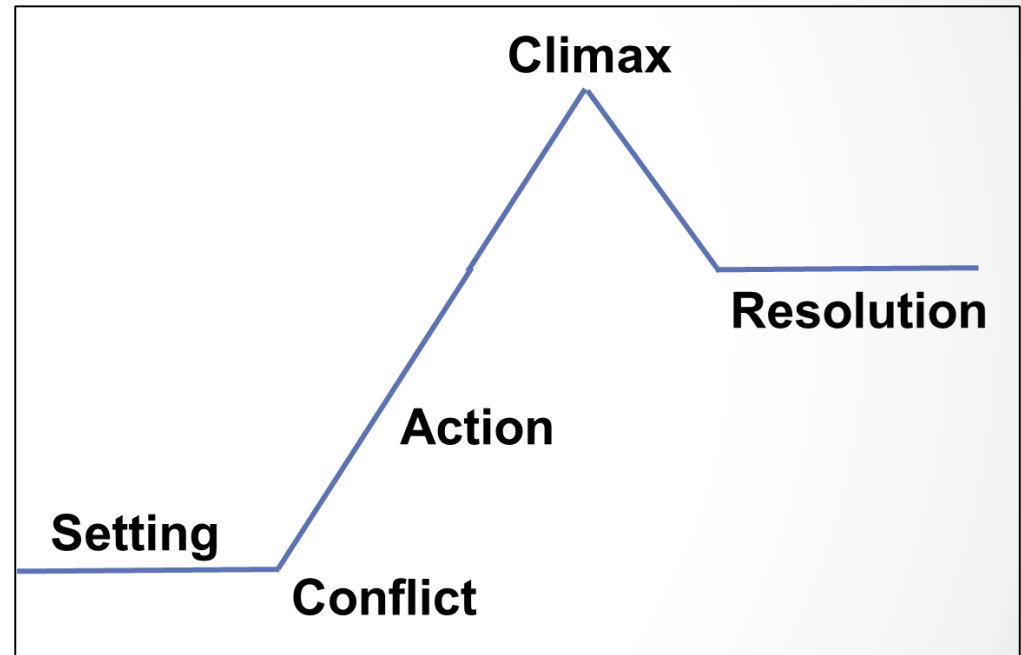
Answer questions confidently and honestly

- questions are good! it means people were following and are interested!
- take your time
- remember this is your work, so you know it!
- don't BS!
- it is fine to say you aren't sure and then make clear you are speculating based upon other knowledge

Conclusions:

I look forward to hearing YOUR stories!

1. Audience
2. Time
3. Organization
4. Formatting and Visuals
5. Presentation Style



Thanks to Kirsten Gabriel for the invite!



www.phdcomics.com