Abstract Abstractions

Orin C. Davis, Ph.D.

Quality of Life Laboratory

odavis AT qllab DOT org

Identify the Audience

Who should come to my talk/poster and why? What will they learn?

- Only keynotes are for "everyone"

How are the reviewers going to assess the value of my contribution?

- Does this proposition make sense at face value?
- Is it valid given the established science?
- Does it move the needle?

Kickoff

What is the topic and why is it important to science and society?

(Watch out for clichés)

Your Grand Addition:
What's Missing from the Current Bank of Knowledge?

◈ Hole in the literature

◈ Contradiction in the literature

◈ Error in the literature

◈ New technique/method

◈ Innovation in the theory (extremely rare)

Procedure:
What did you do to make this addition?
4 W's (in brief and in general; "why" is already covered)

Participants

Methods

Location

Timing

Findings

- ◈ Only key finding(s)
- ◈ Don't bother with statistics (but mention significance)
- ◈ Null findings are important (especially when we expected to see something)
- ◈ How the findings move the needle – why are they important?
- ◈ Implicitly: think about why people need to hear you talk about these findings instead of just reading your abstract → What are you going to discuss in the talk that people need to hear?

The Grand Conclusion

Your not-remotely-humble assessment of how you[r team] has single-handedly CHANGED THE WORLD