

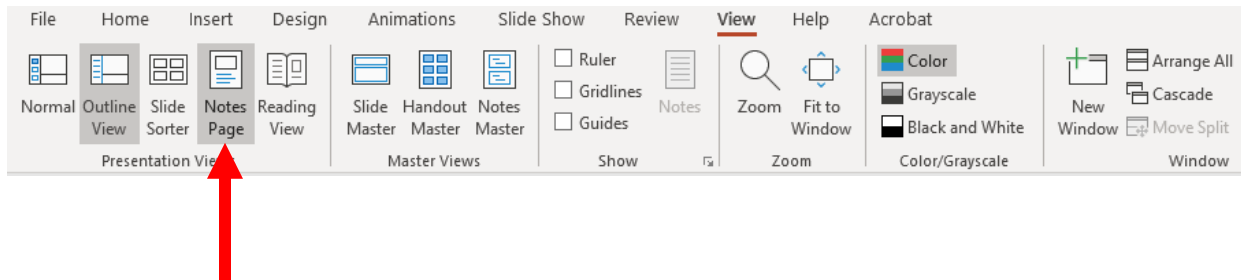
Homework Assignment #8, Short Science Talk—Draft Slides

This assignment is to prepare draft “slides” for an individual short (6-min) science talk. Allow about 5 min for the talk itself and 1 min for questions. In general, giving a short talk is harder and takes more preparation than giving a long talk, so learning how to give good short talks is an important skill for you to master. At professional conferences, the average allotted time for a “contributed” talk is 10 min, including questions.

You may base your presentation on the work that you did for Homework #5 and #6, on your own research, or on a physics topic of interest to you. Your audience is a group of undergraduate physics and astronomy majors who know basic introductory mechanics and E&M but have no specialized knowledge of your particular topic. Approach the talk from the standpoint of an extended television news story; consider the journalist’s questions of *who, what, when, where, why, and how*, but concentrate on only one main idea. You cannot cover more than one main point in the time allotted. You may emphasize any part of the story you wish—the concept, the underlying theory, experimental evidence, the history, the implications for future work.

Prepare five draft slides in PowerPoint* or your choice of presentation software—a title slide to grab the audience’s attention—give your name and affiliation and show any acknowledgments; an introductory slide that motivates your talk; two “content” slides that explain, expand on, or give evidence for your main idea; and a summary slide that reiterates the important idea. You may use figures you obtain from other sources to illustrate your talk, but be sure to credit them properly.

In addition to creating your slides, use the “notes pages” feature in PowerPoint to organize what you’re going to say while you’re showing each slide.



PLEASE submit your slides by the deadline, so I can get feedback to you in time for you to make necessary changes to your final version, which will be presented in class on November 1.

Due: **Friday, October 25, 9:00 p.m.** Upload your assignment to my.physics. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted. Late assignments will also mean that you will receive late feedback, possibly giving you inadequate time to make necessary changes, which will adversely affect your grade for HW #9, too. This assignment is eligible for rewrite points.

Total—100 points; 50 points for the quality of your slides, and 50 points for the quality of your notes pages. **(Don’t forget to complete the “notes”!)**

*If you use something other than PowerPoint, make a PDF version of the slides, including notes pages, so they can be shown on the AV equipment in the Loomis classrooms. (For you MS haters, just get over yourselves; about 90% of the AV equipment you’ll find at conferences is set up for PPT files.)

If you do not have PPT on your computer, you can get a free copy from the university’s webstore (<https://web-store.illinois.edu/shop/product.aspx?zpid=2816>).