

## NOTES ON PECHA KUCHA

*The advantages of the Pecha Kucha format for a conference or a class are clear. Within a given time slot, more presentations can be scheduled and the schedule is predictable. In addition, the atmosphere in a Pecha Kucha session is usually very engaging. Once the “clock starts ticking”, the audience is on the side of the presenter, willing them to succeed. This is a wonderful atmosphere for both new and experienced presenters.*

Pecha Kucha doesn't mean that *anything goes*. It is best suited to events that are trying to get people to speak and act like experts on their disciplinary knowledge. This becomes a moment when they share something they know about a topic with their peers. The moment when PK becomes more than a presentation, people feel that they have “sparked” a good discussion, or brought in knowledge that wasn't there previously. It makes them co-mentors in the educational process, and that feeling goes a long way towards building deep and complex appreciation not only for content, but why that content is relevant to them and their peers.

A Pecha Kucha is not an in-depth analysis of an issue. It forces speakers to get to the point, making these presentations much faster paced, and much more evocative than a standard PowerPoint. So, what are you going to talk about in your Pecha Kucha? Remember, there's not a lot of time, so you'll want to get to the point quickly. You'll not be able to give a detailed explanation of your research, for example. But, you could probably share a story about the most exciting aspect of that research. Or make the case that your work is crucial for the field. The Pecha Kucha introduces ideas better than it analyzes them in depth. To be concise and evocative means you have really done your homework, that you understand what you are presenting. A novice has trouble distilling information. People who give strong Pecha Kuchas have done their research, have really distilled ideas into an essence or a worldview. These are all higher level of intellectual behaviors according to Bloom's taxonomy. To make a good Pecha Kucha, a person has to be able to analyze, evaluate and create.

## 10 TIPS FOR PRESENTERS

1. Don't use too much text
2. Avoid reading directly from the slides
3. Avoid text-images relations that would take more than 20 seconds to digest (i.e. overly crowded slides will be a blur in a Pecha Kucha, unless you want to intentionally create a sense of “blur”)
4. While a consistent slide design is good, avoid most PowerPoint templates. Neutral backgrounds and easy to read sans serif fonts are best.
5. Consider your 20 slides as 20 panels in a graphic storyline. How do your 20 “panels” flow together to create a cohesive statement or a consistent through-line.
6. Consider the impact of text on your audience – Is there a single word or a short phrase that captures the essence of what you are saying in that 20 second time span?
7. What is your design style? What is connecting these 20 panels? Have you completely considered the arrangement of these 20 slides? Would your presentation change dramatically if the slide order was reversed, or changed in any way?
8. Consider your images very carefully. In a Pecha Kucha, images are frequently the only information on the entire slide. Avoid images that don't advance your topic or contribute meaningful visual information. Try to find images that are illustrations or metaphors of your key

points and/or use word-as-image. Avoid sounds or video clips. There just isn't time, and these features are just distracting in a Pecha Kucha. Your voice is your sound instrument in this presentation. Successful Pecha Kucha leads presenters to use best practice in creating presentations that are visually strong and appealing. Let's banish the bullets!

9. Hack the format! If you want to go into depth on one particular slide and 20 seconds just won't be enough, repeat the slide and add text or graphics to develop your points. Your information will then be on screen for 40 seconds, with small changes appearing midway through. This is a very graceful way to keep within the format but still go into depth.
10. **Practice, practice and practice again.** Most of us do not tend to memorize our presentations. For a Pecha Kucha presentation, however, memorizing your key points for each slide is usually the best approach. It's suggested that you write down the 2 key points you want to make for each slide and try to stick to that. Then practice delivering your presentation until it flows easily. Practice really makes the difference. There are two parts of a whole, and a successful Pecha Kucha is both well designed and well spoken.

[http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/CMMR/Pecha\\_Kucha\\_TipsResourcesExamples.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/CMMR/Pecha_Kucha_TipsResourcesExamples.pdf)

<https://remixhumanities.wordpress.com/2010/11/03/pecha-kucha-in-the-classroom-tips-and-strategies-for-better-presentations/>