Six Presentation Alternatives for the PowerPoint-Weary
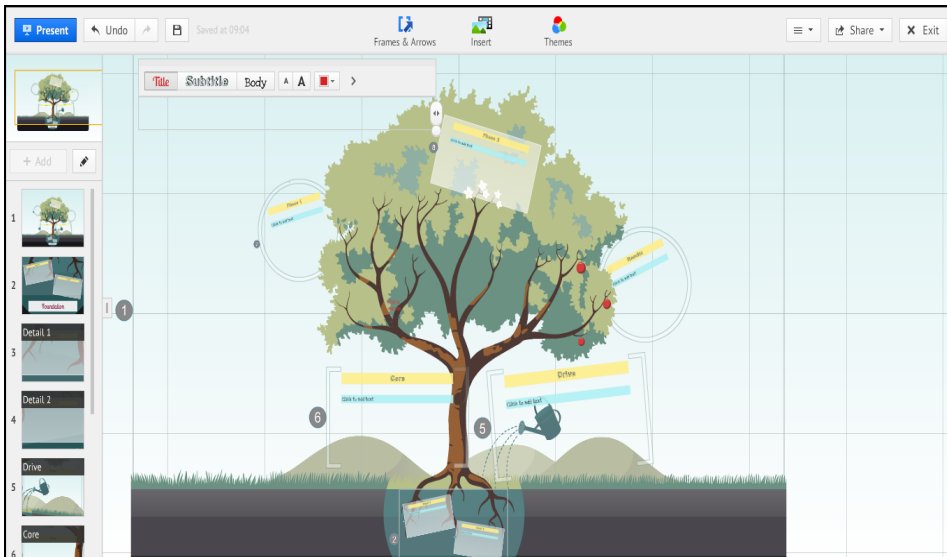## CTRE Workshop

Prezi is a cloud-based presentation and storytelling tool featuring unique path-based zooming user interface.

Features: ●●●●

Appeal: ●●●●

Ease of Use: ●●●

Animoto takes your photos, videos clips, and music files, and assembles them into stunning videos.
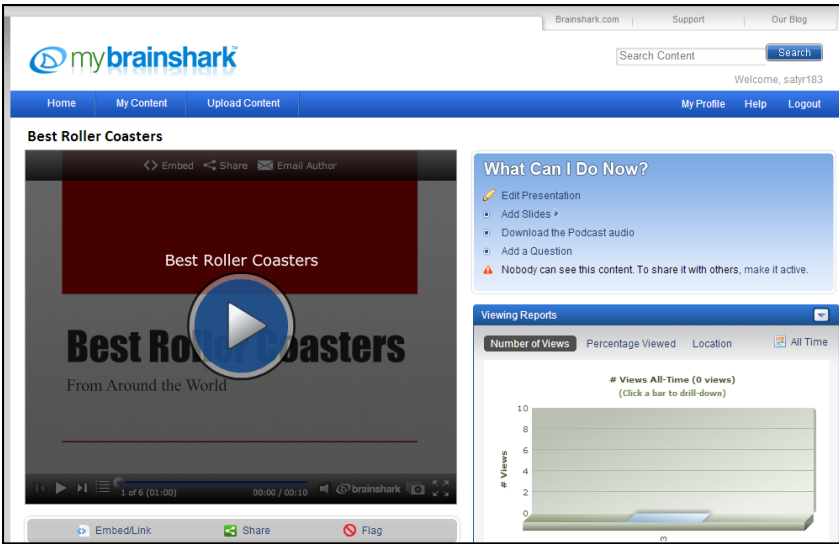
Features: ●●●

Appeal: ●●●●

Ease of Use: ●●●●

Piktochart allows you to create rich, vibrant infographics for free. Easily saved or shared online.

Features: ●●●

Appeal: ●●●

Ease of Use: ●●●

MyBrainShark allows you to create voice-narrated lessons using a variety of files. Also add questions for users.
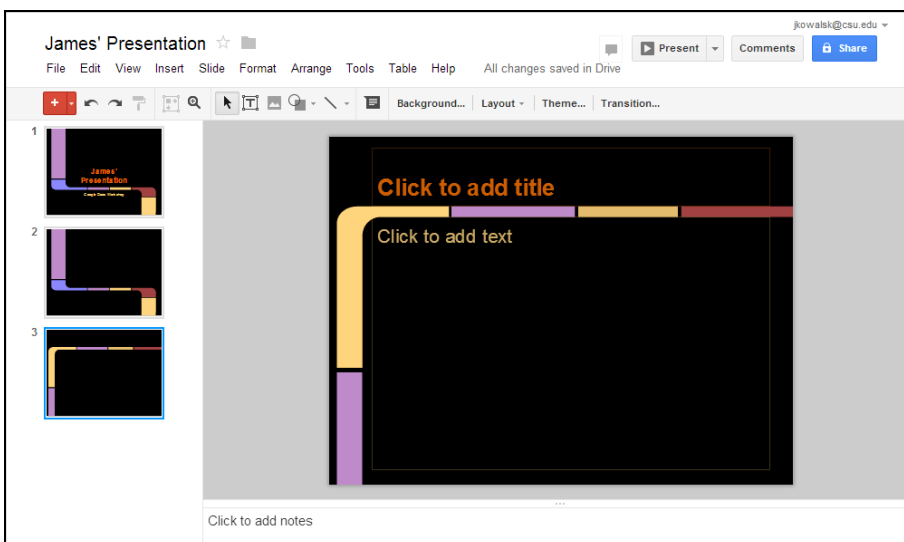
Features: ●●●●

Appeal: ●●
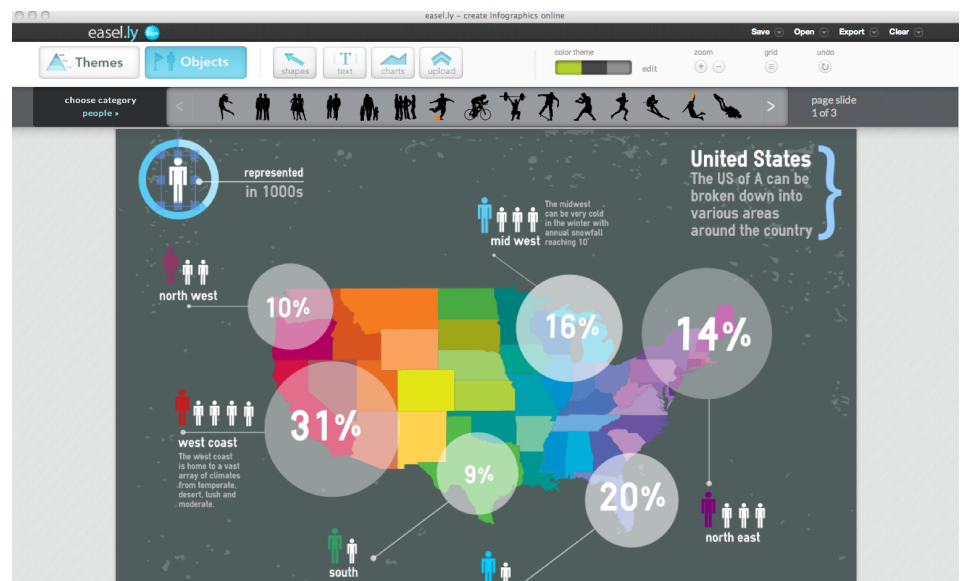
Ease of Use: ●●●●

Easel.ly lets you build appealing infographics, for when you need to visually organize a lot of information

Features: ●●●

Appeal: ●●●

Ease of Use: ●●●●

Google Docs Presentation functions like PowerPoint, but is cloud-based and allows for easy collaboration.

Features: ●●●●

Appeal: ●●

Ease of Use: ●●●●

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

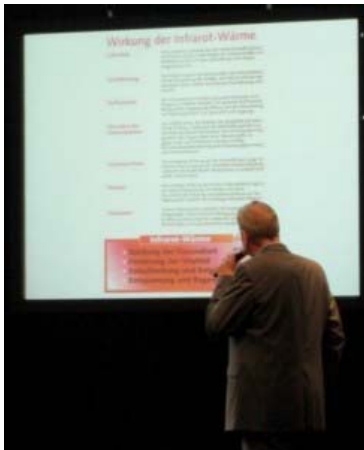back to ProfHacker

Challenging the Presentation Paradigm with the 1/1/5 Rule

April 19, 2011, 3:00 pm

By *Mark Sample*

A measure of how bad presentations in academia can be is the sheer number of tips and strategies we've suggested on ProfHacker, in a recurring series called Challenging the Presentation Paradigm. One of these techniques I've used in my classes for several years is the Pecha Kucha format. With 20 slides at 20 seconds per slide, a Pecha Kucha is, as Jason writes, necessarily "SHORT, INFORMAL, and CREATIVE."

However, as I've found out the hard way, a Pecha Kucha format does not necessarily mean students will avoid text-heavy slides, one of the major causes of DBP (Death By PowerPoint). That's why I've begun implementing what I call **the 1/1/5 rule** for all student presentations. Here's how I describe the 1/1/5 rule to my students:

> In addition to the time constraint of the Pecha Kucha, your presentation must also follow the 1/1/5 rule. That is, you must have **at least one image per slide**, you can **use each exact image only once**, and you should add **no more than five words per slide**. The formal constraints of this rigid format call for discipline, focus, practice, and paradoxically, creativity.

The 1/1/5 rule is just a small tweak, but it has made all the difference. While student Pecha Kuchas formerly ran the risk of containing too much text, or tempting the presenters to read off the screen instead of talking to the audience, now the presentations are almost certainly guaranteed to be visual aids complementing the talk, rather than overwhelming it.

Have you tried similar techniques in your classrooms? What other ways have you managed to make student

presentations more engaging?

(Death by PowerPoint image courtesy of Flickr user alice_c / Creative Commons Licensed)

This entry was posted in Teaching and tagged Pecha Kucha, PowerPoint, Present. Bookmark the permalink.

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Real-time updating is **paused**. (Resume)

bitterlemon   2 years ago

At a major conference in my discipline, I recently used a LateX based presentation, for the first time. This was a result of my decision to abandon Microsoft and move to Linux and open source software, primarily for ethical reasons, supplemented by the Vistaarghh Vistaster http://bit.ly/fgfaJh.
At first I used the Powerpoint clone in OpenOffice, but abandoned it as useless MS baggage, that I had been frustrated with for quite some time.

Trying out all the new possibilities, I tried out "Beamer" software, which comes with LyX, a processor for those of us who are technically challenged regarding LateX. This resulted in a presentation that was well formatted, beautiful text, all without the finger-painting necessary in powerpoint. It made me focus on the content rather than the gimmickry of presentation. My presentation had very few images, and only those strictly relevant to my talk, no more than 3 points to a slide, which are very well organized, so the audience could focus on each point by turn.

The feedback that I got was that my presentation was easy to follow, people were interested, and got what I wanted to communicate. I think all these "rules" of presentation, some of which you perpetuate, are more suited to marketing than academia. The use of images, bars graphs, and all the attention grabbing stuff is necessary only when you want to camouflage the lack of content, or as a way to spice up something utterly inane.

All the other presentations had coloured fonts, bullet points, backgrounds, and images, few of which were necessary. Even though I was a bit apprehensive, this was one of the most satisfying presentations I've had: sparse, succinct and elegant.

P.S. I realize I might have come out sounding as a Linux zealot, but I'm far from being a tech-whiz, just an aging social scientist. I was pleasantly surprised by how user friendly, and supportive Linux can be. This move was easier than moving to a Mac, which I had tried but found confusing and overrated.

The software I used are:
http://www.linuxmint.com/
http://www.lyx.org/

3 people liked this.   LIKE