

Ulysses Paulino Albuquerque

# Speaking in Public About Science

A Quick Guide for the Preparation  
of Good Lectures, Seminars, and  
Scientific Presentations



Springer

# Contents

1	Introduction: Do We Need to Speak About Science? . . . . .	1
2	How Are Your Communication Skills? . . . . .	7
3	Efficient Oral Communication . . . . .	11
4	Types of Scientific Presentations . . . . .	15
	Seminars . . . . .	16
	Conferences and Lectures . . . . .	16
	Roundtables . . . . .	16
	Oral Communications . . . . .	17
	Bulletin Boards or Posters . . . . .	17
	Dissertation Defenses . . . . .	18
	Use Your Supervisor and Friends as Test Subjects . . . . .	18
	Do Not Talk to the Wall . . . . .	19
	Do Not Stand Still . . . . .	19
	Attention to Posture and Vocabulary . . . . .	19
	How to Avoid Awkward Situations . . . . .	19
	Speak Fluently . . . . .	20
	Amend Your Mistakes Without Stressing Them . . . . .	20
5	Reflecting on Expository Practice . . . . .	23
	Positive and Negative Predisposing Factors . . . . .	25
	What? . . . . .	25

How? . . . . .	26
To Whom? . . . . .	28
Read Speeches . . . . .	29
Available Time and Speech Preparation . . . . .	30
6 Scientific Method and Logical Construction of Discourse . . . . .	31
Explanation . . . . .	32
Clarity . . . . .	32
Completeness . . . . .	33
Impartiality . . . . .	33
Order . . . . .	33
Accuracy . . . . .	33
Objectivity . . . . .	33
Simplicity . . . . .	34
Excitement and Enthusiasm . . . . .	35
Sincerity . . . . .	35
Persuasion . . . . .	36
7 Composition of Scientific Discourse . . . . .	37
Structure of Scientific Discourse . . . . .	38
Introduction . . . . .	39
Body . . . . .	39
Conclusion . . . . .	40
Script Preparation . . . . .	41
8 Basic Rules for the Use of Visual Resources . . . . .	43
Rules to Observe . . . . .	44

	Use of Slides . . . . .	44
	Use of Blackboards or Equivalent Resources . . . . .	45
9	The Scientist and His/Her Public . . . . .	47
10	Some Exercises and Online Resources . . . . .	49
	<b>Exercise 1.</b> Training the Organization and Preparation of Speeches . . . . .	50
	<b>Exercise 2.</b> Identifying Weak and Strong Points . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 3.</b> Organizing an Informational Discourse . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 4.</b> Organizing a Persuasive Speech . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 5.</b> Understanding Different Audiences, Different Speeches . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 6.</b> Preparing the Introduction . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 7.</b> Developing the Speech Body . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 8.</b> Concluding a Speech . . . . .	51
	<b>Exercise 9.</b> Improving Your Oral Performance . . . . .	52
	<b>Exercise 10.</b> Preparing Visual Resources . . . . .	52
	<b>Exercise 11.</b> Re-reading a Story . . . . .	52
	<b>Exercise 12.</b> Exploring Lasswell's Model . . . . .	52
	<b>Exercise 13.</b> Using the Scientific Model . . . . .	52
	<b>Online Resources</b> . . . . .	53
11	Supporting Materials . . . . .	55
	<b>Text 1:</b> I Am a Doctor, and You? . . . . .	56
	<b>Text 2:</b> What Is a Thesis? . . . . .	58
	<b>What Is a Thesis?</b> . . . . .	59
	<b>What Type of Professionals Do We Want to Train?</b> . . . . .	60

What Do We Want for the Future? . . . . .	61
Text 3: The Science I Imagine and the Science There Is . . . . .	61
References . . . . .	65
Index . . . . .	67