

For those of you who really despise reading boring guidelines for speakers and other such nonsense, here is a Letterman-esque list of the top ten traits that highly annoy the RRNW audience (based on real comments, from real people!):

10. That guy who uses really small fonts so that I feel like I need to call my optometrist pronto (use 28 point font or larger).
9. Red text -- hey, I'm partly color blind and I'm supposed to be able to read red text over the top of a photo -- hope it's not important!
8. Those agency people who think that random assemblage of the alphabet is a form of communication (please, limit the acronyms).
7. "Speed Racer" who has 70 slides to get through in 15 minutes -- wish they were serving espresso to everyone during the break (slow down and speak clearly into the microphone). Even worse, is the disgruntled Speed Racer who spends the first 2 minutes complaining about how they do not have enough time to deliver their message (that's 13.33% of your time!).
6. The speaker who assumes that the audience is illiterate and boring and so would rather talk to the screen -- hey, I can read that too, and probably faster (try to avoid reading your slides off of the screen).
5. The self-deprecating individual who diminishes the value of their discipline -- and all of their colleagues in the audience as well. Every discipline is valuable and important -- remember Aretha "RESPECT" -- it's what RRNW is all about. The audience is about 30% engineers, 30% biologists, 10% geomorphologists/hydrologists, and the remainder a wide mix of disciplines.
4. "The X-Box Aficionado" -- really, video games at a serious scientific Symposium?? Who was that guy with the flying purple and yellow things, and how can I make my work look so cool?? (curb your animation urges to a distraction-free level).
3. "The Pointer" -- there are 380 people in the room, and I'm 30-feet back from the screen, and you want me to find a tiny bouncing red dot on one of the two screens? That is some confidence in my abilities...and my eyesight! (no laser pointers -- embed arrows within your presentations, and remember, there will be two screens).
2. "The Sorry Speaker" who repeatedly says "I'm really sorry about this slide"....WHAT?? Did someone sneak that slide into your presentation when you were getting a latte? (If you must apologize, then delete the slide -- if it's in the presentation, do not apologize).

and the number one thing that annoys the RRNW audience is.....

1. "The Time Bender" -- The speaker who DOESN'T FINISH ON TIME. Worse yet, the speaker who ignores the time cues, buzzer, disconnected projector, and lights being shut off. Let's face it, it's rude and people always complain loudly....to me....over and over and over again. You get the idea.

Now, if you are still reading and are totally engrossed in speaker etiquette, please read (or reread) the speaker guidelines (attached).

If you would like more specific information about the audience, please send me an e-mail and I'll see if I can answer your questions.

We look forward to seeing all of you in a few weeks at Skamania.