

How to Create Your TED Talk

1. Get familiar with the form.
 2. Develop an idea.
 3. Write a script.
 4. Create slides.
 5. Rehearse.
 6. Give your talk.
 7. Savor the glory.
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Step 1: Get familiar with the form.

[TED](#) is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.

To get familiar with the form of the TED Talk, watch as many as you have time for, preferably on a wide variety of topics (<https://www.ted.com/topics>).

***Please note that your TED Talk will be between seven (7) and ten (10) minutes long.

Step 2: Develop an idea.

Your TED Talk can be about almost anything, but it must be something you're *sincerely* interested in — and maybe even passionate about.

Think about how you've chosen to spend your time for the past 16 or 17 years. Maybe you have expert knowledge about something that you'd like to share with us.

Or maybe you have a question about the world that you'd like to investigate; a problem for which you'd like to find a solution. If so, this could be an excellent opportunity to test drive an idea you have for AP Research.

Step 3: Write a script.

As with any other writing project, allow yourself to start by simply freewriting about what it is you want us — your audience — to learn and understand about your topic. Once you have a bunch of material to work with, begin shaping it. An outline might help you organize your ideas, but you'll definitely need to write a script.

Step 4: Create slides.

Think about how best to support the ideas in your script with still images, e.g., photos, graphs, art, text. The most important rule for slides is *keep it simple*:

- Use as little text as possible – if your audience is reading, they are not listening to you.
- Whatever text you use should be large – font size 42 points or larger.
- Avoid using bullet points – consider putting different points on different slides.
- Often an image running edge-to-edge is all a slide needs to be.

Given the short length of your presentation, any audio or video should be kept to a minimum (only a few seconds long). The vast majority of what we see and hear should be you and your voice; slides should be a support, not a crutch.

Before your presentation date, you'll email me your audio-visual support (e.g., PowerPoint) so I can look over them before class and easily access them when it's time for your presentation. If you create Google slides, you'll need to share them with me.

Step 5: Rehearse

Be sure to rehearse your presentation until you can deliver it fluently, without the aid of notes and within the strict time limit (7-10 minutes).

Practice in front of others and ask them for their honest feedback. Listen to them, make any changes you think will improve your presentation, and keep rehearsing. Focus on talking like you're speaking to just one person in a spontaneous, one-way conversation.

Time yourself. Practice with the clock winding down in front of you. Do it until you get the timing right every time.

Step 6: Give your talk.

Inhale. Exhale. Do it like you practiced.

Step 7: Savor the glory.

Your TED Talk will be filmed and – with your permission – broadcast on YouTube so that many others can enjoy and learn from what you share with us.