

How Much PowerPoint is Too Much PowerPoint

"I'd be interested in your ideas on number of PowerPoint slides for presentations. I like to think of 30 per hour as a max, but I have developers who see far more than that as appropriate. I believe the focus is on discussion to effect change, rather than content of slides."

Most often the problem is *too many* slides as opposed to too few. We are all familiar with the adage *death by PowerPoint*. What you need to remember is that the focus in training should be on application and feedback. Within the FKA system of PAF (Presentation, Application, and Feedback) presentation should generally encompass 30-40% of the learning experience, and the rest of the time people should be doing things (Application and Feedback). Our research shows that approximately 12 slides per hour is an effective maximum. Once you get into the range of 20 – 30 or more slides per hour then it becomes all about the slides and not about the learning or learner. Ask these questions about your PowerPoint slides:

Do your slides contain only words? Show some pictures.

Do your slides contain words that you also speak? Stop being redundant.

Do your slides contain things you don't explain? Get rid of them.

Do you pause for a long time on a single slide? Break it up into smaller pieces.

Do you have lots of information on a slide? Keep it simple.

(Summarized from "Educational Psychologist", Richard E. Mayer, Roxana Morenol)

Remember that PowerPoint slides are only one Presentation alternative – many others exist.

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Abstract

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Nine Ways to Reduce Cognitive Load in Multimedia Learning

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