

Research in Action Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

Michael Alley on Best Practices for Presenting Research [30:55]

Research in Action - Episode 47

Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Michael Alley. Holding a master of science in electrical engineering and a master of fine arts in writing, Michael Alley is an associate professor of engineering communication at Penn State. He is the author of *The Craft of Scientific Presentations* (Springer, 2013), which has been translated into Japanese and Chinese. Over the past decade, he has taught presentations to scientists and engineers on four continents, in sixteen countries, and at more than 150 institutions. He has presented at Google, MIT, Harvard Medical School, Texas Instruments, Simula Research Laboratory (Norway), Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and the European Space Organization in the high desert of Chile. Alley’s websites on presentations are top Google listings for the topics of “engineering presentations” and “scientific presentations”.

Segment One [00:00-09:35] - In this segment, Michael shares some of what he has learned about making effective research presentations.

Segment Two [09:36-16:25] - In this segment, Michael discusses how researchers can be more confident as presenters.

Segment Three [16:26-30:55] - In this segment, Michael shares some of his thoughts on PowerPoint and best practices for using the tool.

Bonus Clip #1 [00:00-02:48]: Tips for Presenting to Non-scientists

Bonus Clip #2 [00:00-06:39]: The Four Aces for Projecting Confidence

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/episode47/>

Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Discuss common challenges associated with creating and delivering presentations
- Provide an example of how to project confidence in delivering a presentation
- Explain the importance of preparing for a presentation
- Review the four aces for projecting confidence
- Cite resources for creating and delivering presentations

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What is the most common question Michael Alley receives with regard to presentations?
- What three pieces of advice does Michael Alley offer as a way to address nervousness?
- What does Michael Alley mean by, “give the talk they want to hear”?
- Based on Michael Alley’s suggestions, how can you project confidence?
- What does Michael Alley explain about the importance of preparation?
- What does Michael Alley say is the antithesis of helping people learn?
- According to Michael Alley, what are the two biggest mistakes people make in using the defaults in PowerPoint?
- Why does Michael Alley suggest building presentations on a “message” as opposed to a “talk”?
- How does Michael Alley suggest presenting supporting evidence?
- What are some of Michael Alley’s suggestions for PowerPoint users in creating scientific presentations?
- What tip does Michael Alley suggest for presenting scientific presentations to non-scientists? (See also, Bonus clip #1)
- What are the four aces for projecting confidence? (See also, Bonus clip #2)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e47/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e47/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Michael Alley if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, February 20). *Michael Alley on Best Practices for Presenting Research* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e47/>

Notes

About the Research in Action Podcast

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

Contact

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