

PowerPoint: Do No Harm

by **Dan Meyer**
who writes at blog.mrmeyer.com
presented to **The Oakland Teaching Fellows**
on **2008 April 1**

those experiences, summarized in a sentence

Anecdotes	
Charts	
Text	
Tables	
Pictures	

what is the best-fit medium for charts?



what is the best-fit medium for text?

“Here is just one example of the total wrongness of something I tend to be automatically sure of: everything in my own immediate experience supports my deep belief that I am the absolute center of the universe; the realist, most vivid and important person in existence. We rarely think about this sort of natural, basic self-centeredness because it’s so socially repulsive. But it’s pretty much the same for all of us. It is our default setting, hard-wired into our boards at birth. Think about it: there is no experience you have had that you are not the absolute center of. The world as you experience it is there in front of YOU or behind YOU, to the left or right of YOU, on YOUR TV or YOUR monitor. And so on. Other people’s thoughts and feelings have to be communicated to you somehow, but your own are so immediate, urgent, real.

“Please don’t worry that I’m getting ready to lecture you about compassion or other-directedness or all the so-called virtues. This is not a matter of virtue. It’s a matter of my choosing to do the work of somehow altering or getting free of my natural, hard-wired default setting which is to be deeply and literally self-centered and to see and interpret everything through this lens of self. People who can adjust their natural default setting this way are often described as being “well-adjusted”, which I suggest to you is not an accidental term.”

David Foster Wallace

what is the best-fit medium for tables?

Date	Starbucks Stock Price
25 - Mar - 08	\$17.99
24 - Mar - 08	\$17.89
23 - Mar - 08	\$17.89
22 - Mar - 08	\$17.89
21 - Mar - 08	\$17.89
20 - Mar - 08	\$17.53
19 - Mar - 08	\$17.50
18 - Mar - 08	\$18.24
17 - Mar - 08	\$17.26
16 - Mar - 08	\$17.26
15 - Mar - 08	\$17.26
14 - Mar - 08	\$17.39
13 - Mar - 08	\$17.63
12 - Mar - 08	\$17.61
11 - Mar - 08	\$17.74
10 - Mar - 08	\$16.80
09 - Mar - 08	\$16.80
08 - Mar - 08	\$16.80
07 - Mar - 08	\$17.10
06 - Mar - 08	\$17.60
05 - Mar - 08	\$18.14
04 - Mar - 08	\$17.90
03 - Mar - 08	\$17.85
02 - Mar - 08	\$17.85

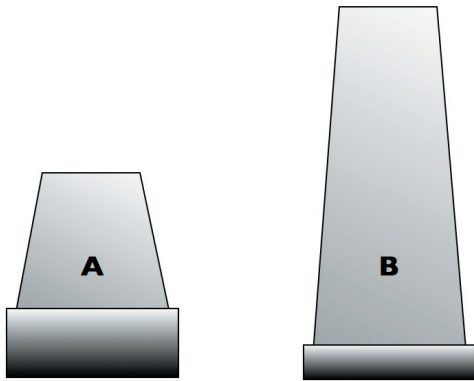
what is the best-fit medium for pictures?



what is PowerPoint good for?

excerpted slide

the second rule



ex. visual flash

ex. visual interest

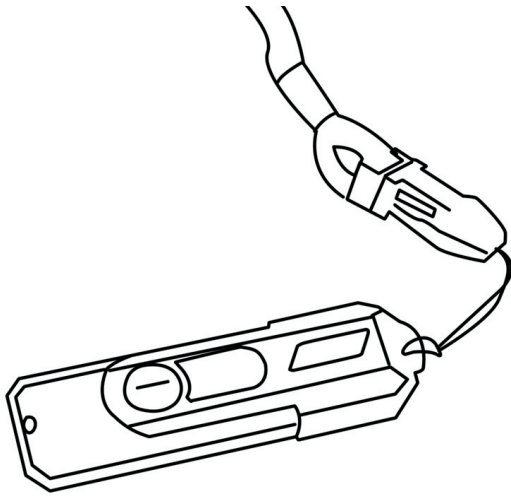
excerpted slide

the first rule

SIZE draws the eye to important details. Use it **CONSISTENTLY** and **DELIBERATELY**.

excerpted slide

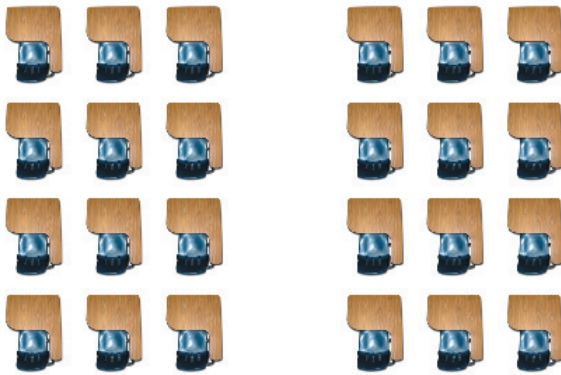
how can powerpoint make your lesson planning easier?



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/programwitch/1454434770/>

excerpted slide

how can powerpoint strengthen your class management?



how can powerpoint make you a more interesting teacher?

infamous idiots in history



clad							
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grams							
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<u>name</u>	<u>crazy</u>	<u>hot</u>	<u>length (months)</u>	<u>start date</u>
amy	2	3	6	2001
emily	9	9	0	2006
catherine	3	1	4	1999
inga	7	4	1	2003
barbara	6	7	2	2005
felina	4	1	3	2000
hannah	2	5	5	2004
jocelyn	8	8	1	2006
devandra	1	0	7	1998
graciela	0	3	9	2002

