

# IMPRS-HD seminar - talk feedback sheet

compiled by Christian Fendt using material from Kerstin Meyer-Ross and Hans-Walter Rix

Some hints on *how to give talks and what bugs to avoid* are summarized on the reverse.

## Please comment on the presentation of the today's seminar talk

This is not an exam, but a fair help for the speaker → enter specific suggestions/text, not only marks or yes/no

Speaker's name:		
Evaluation of:	Marks: 1 (good) - 5 (bad)	Comments / suggestions:
<b>Language</b> <i>articulation, clarity, English, word pool?</i>		
<b>Voice, speech</b> <i>loudness, speed, use of breaks, modulation?</i>		
<b>Body language</b> <i>eye contact, posture, gesture?</i>		
<b>Speaker's manner</b> <i>secure &amp; confident, commitment?</i>		
<b>Talk content:</b> <i>introduction sufficient for audience? scientific content clearly described? balance personal / literature work? summary precise &amp; conclusive?</i>		
<b>Talk slides</b> <i>figure visibility, font size? colours, (ab)use of ppt features?</i>		
<b>Time management:</b> 20 +5 min?		
Handling of <b>questions?</b>		
<b>Did you learn something new?</b>		
<b>Further remarks</b>		

# “Elements of an IMPRS seminar talk” / “Do's & Don'ts of a talk”

(H.-W. Rix 2007)

- 1) **Spend 20 min** conveying the most new / important / promising insights to be gained from the paper / from your PhD project
- 2) **Briefly set the stage:** What's the question, puzzle, observation etc to be understood
- 3) What are the **“punchline(s)”** / key insight(s)?  
Is that based on new calculation / data / ideas / technology?
- 4) What are the **broader implications** of the immediate results?  
... based on the authors written view, filtered by your judgement
- 5) A few **rules:**
  - Think about your **audience** first: What do they already know?
  - The **first & last** slides are most important:  
Spell out your first 5 and last 5 sentences verbatim.
  - **Practice** each talk 3 times all the way before you give it first
  - Give a **clear exposition** of the scientific issue:  
What's the question at hand?  
Why is it interesting?  
State the obvious, but only briefly.
  - Research talks:  
Clearly separate your **own work** from the review of **others**.  
Focus on your own work, but give proper credit.
  - One transparency / **3 minutes**.
  - Use **figures** extensively, but annotate them:  
Legible axes!  
If there are several lines, label them.
  - **Explain everything** on the slide - or don't put it on the slide.
  - **Streamline:** if a slide has no bearing on your conclusion, omit it.
  - Talk to the **audience!**
  - Keep it **simple** but not simplistic