Giving talks

(A) The most consuming thought throughout preparation and delivery

AUDIENCE

Fact: Different audiences understand different dialects; same content, same meaning, different dialects.

(B) PREPARATION: My experience - 30 years of data

(length of talk) / 6 rehearsals

+ (# of slides) / 2 hour + 3 (importance of the talk on a scale from 1 to 10)

Example: 20 min talk, importance 8, 5 slides

$$\frac{3}{2} \times 8 + 5 \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \times 6 = 12 + \frac{5}{2} + 2 = 16.5 \text{ hours prep}$$

Example: 20 min talk, importance 8, 10 slides

$$\frac{3}{2} \times 8 + 10 \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \times 6 = 12 + 5 + 2 = 19 \text{ hours prep}$$
(c) Writing a talk.

Most of the effort is

CUTTING MATERIAL
to create focus, clarity, and direction
to the punchline.

Fact: 1 page blue notes = 10-12 mins talk time.

(d) Most important career in mathematics

TIME MANAGEMENT

Fact: No one listens to anything you say
after your official time slot is over.
(E) Know how to drive your
PRESENTATION TOOLS
computer, slides, projectors, boards,
chalk, pictures, equations.

Fact: Chalk doesn’t squeak if the
angle to the board is ≤ 76°.

(F) Why are talks important to a researcher?
Success is determined by:
‘Whoever has the most toys wins’.
In math this is:
‘Whoever knows the most math wins’.
The Catch: The way the community
decides how much math you know is
by whether you can
EXPLAIN IT
to them.