

Pecha Kucha: Tips, Resources & Examples

I. Pecha Kucha Presentation Tips

A “Pecha Kucha” or 20×20 presentation contains 20 slides, with each slide shown for 20 seconds, for a presentation of exactly 6 minutes, 40 seconds. The format is similar to an “Ignite Talk”, which is 20×15 (i.e. 20 slides, 15 seconds per slide, 5 minutes in length), so advice for preparing and delivering Ignite and Pecha Kucha presentations is similar.

The advantages of the Pecha Kucha format for a conference or a class are clear. Within a given time slot, more presentations can be scheduled and the schedule is predictable. In addition, the atmosphere in a Pecha Kucha session is usually very engaging. Once the “clock starts ticking”, the audience is on the side of the presenter, willing them to succeed. This is a wonderful atmosphere for both new and experienced presenters.

Tips for presenters:

- Images are the key to effective Pecha Kucha. Try to find images that are illustrations or metaphors of your key points and/or use words-as-image, as in the example above. This makes delivery of your presentation much easier, as you’re not trying to race through a list of points. It also makes your presentation more engaging. This is why Pecha Kucha is so successful, I think. It’s not the timing, as such, but the fact that it leads presenters to use best practice in creating presentations that are visually strong and appealing. Let’s banish the bullets!
- Practice, practice and practice again. Most of us do not tend to memorize our presentations. For a Pecha Kucha presentation, however, memorizing your key points for each slide is usually the best approach. It’s suggested that you write down the 2 key points you want to make for each slide and try to stick to that. Then practice delivering your presentation until it flows easily. Practice really makes the difference.
- Hack the format! If you want to go into depth on one particular slide and 20 seconds just won’t be enough, repeat the slide and add text or graphics to develop your points. Your information will then be on-screen for 40 seconds, with small changes appearing midway through. This is a very graceful way to keep within the format but still go into depth.

- When delivering the presentation, don't worry if you finish making your points on one slide before the next slide advances. Pausing will break your flow. Just start speaking about your next slide; it will likely appear midway through your first sentence. This makes for a more polished presentation rather than pausing for a few seconds to wait for the next slide to appear.

II. Pecha Kucha Resources

Richard Edwards Blog on Pecha Kucha (a must read):

<http://remixhumanities.wordpress.com/2010/11/03/pecha-kucha-in-the-classroom-tips-and-strategies-for-better-presentations/>

Pecha Kucha 20×20 – This page gives the basics and a brief history of Pecha Kucha. <http://www.pecha-kucha.org/what>

Why and How to Give an Ignite Talk [video] by Scott Berkun — This terrific presentation (in Ignite format) is relevant for both Pecha Kucha and Ignite presentations. Take Scott's advice and "hack the format" if necessary. If it's Pecha Kucha, just be sure your presentation is 6 minute and 40 seconds long. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRa1IPkBFbg>

Creating an Ignite presentation — This article was written by presentation expert Olivia Mitchell about creating an Ignite presentation, however, the guidelines apply just as easily to Pecha Kucha. This is a terrific, visual article, very helpful for careful planning of your presentation.

<http://www.speakingaboutpresenting.com/content/fast-ignite-presentation/>

Choosing good images for presentations — This blog post has excellent advice on finding relevant, potent images for your presentation.

<http://www.powerpointninja.com/graphics/what-makes-an-image-good-for-presentations-part-i/>

Finding CC-licensed images — the following sites are helpful in finding Creative Commons-licensed images and learning how to reference them:

- Compfight – excellent search tool for Creative Commons-licensed Flickr images <http://compfight.com>
- Creative Commons Wiki – a Creative Commons image directory <http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Image>
- CC Search — powerful search across a variety of platforms (e.g. Flickr, Google images, YouTube) to help you find content you can share, use, remix <http://search.creativecommons.org/?beta=1&q=>
- Flickr images – enter search term, click **Advanced Search**, then tick the box "only search within Creative Commons-licensed content" <http://www.flickr.com>

- Content Directories — extensive list of directories of Creative Commons-licensed materials (audio, video, image, text)
http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Content_Directories

40+ Tips for awesome PowerPoint presentations — This is a useful checklist for *all* presentations, not just PowerPoint.
<http://flirtingwelearning.wordpress.com/2011/11/01/40-tips-for-awesome-powerpoint-presentations/>

Prezi workshop – Prezi videos, examples and templates
<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/resources/ToolsResources/Prezi.aspx>

Great Presentations [video] by Nancy Duarte — Nancy Duarte is the author of the excellent books *Resonate* and *Slideology* (<http://www.duarte.com/books>)—unbeatable sources of ideas and inspiration for all presenters. This 25-minute video is worth viewing if you want a deeper understanding of what makes a presentation, which truly connects with an audience. <http://vimeo.com/32198910>

Storyboarding A Pecha Kucha – detailed coverage on tweaking your slides by Chiara Ojeda. Another wonderful resource chock full of ideas and assistance.
<http://tweakyourslides.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/storyboarding-a-pecha-kucha/>

See “Guide To Making A Pecha Kucha Presentation” by Felix Jung. Provides detailed coverage of such topics including: Overview, Getting Started, Slide Design, Practicing, The Big Event, and Downloads.
<http://avoision.com/pechakucha>

III. Pecha Kucha Examples

The presentations below are some examples of Pecha Kucha presentations. Each of these was a presentation created by the speakers — interesting work, I’m sure you’ll agree! You are only limited by your imagination ... and of course ... 6 minutes & 40 seconds.

- **Pecha Kucha: Repetition and Variation (in Chicago)**
by Felix Jung: <http://vimeo.com/5111955>
- **Pecha Kucha: Memories Uncovered, (in Dallas)**
by David Herman: <http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/610>
- **Pecha Kucha: History is Important, (in Memphis)**
by Justin Thompson: <http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/483>
- **Pecha Kucha: Free the Diamond, (in Chattanooga)**
by Mason West: <http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/573>

- **Pecha Kucha: Student presentation on Fairy Tales.**
by A. Miele: <http://my.brainshark.com/fairytales-649087056>

Links to other student work in CT231 Professional Skills (including presentations, blogs and audio podcasts) can be found on the CT231 Student Showcase on Scoop.it. <http://www.scoop.it/t/ct231-student-showcase>

Much of the above information was provided by the above-mentioned websites and authors and re-edited for the purpose of this paper.