Top Tips for Different Types of Presentation.

Powerpoint
Presentation software such as Powerpoint can be a wonderful tool. It can also be a dangerous distraction that interferes with communication rather than facilitating it. The line between the two is thin.

You would not stand in front of a movie trying to engage people's attention Presenters can be more compelling when they just speak.

If you are going to use visual aids, make them an aid to your communication, and decide where your audience's focus should be at any given time. You need to set and retain control of the pace, rhythm and structure of the presentation in the live moment with the audience that is with you.

Here are a few key recommendations for making more effective presentations.

1) Be the presenter. PowerPoint or Keynote are tools designed to augment your presentation not to be your presentation. Remember: You are the presenter. Your message should be the focus. Not your slides. Not your props. And not your handouts. You are in the lead role. If you don't occupy that role, slides won't save you. They can even make a weak presentation worse.

2) What is your objective? Decide what your talk is going to achieve. Are you trying to inform, motivate or inspire?

3) Tell the story. Create a logical flow and think about good structure. If using bullet points, ensure they are necessary and support the structure. You may wish to start with an outlining or mind mapping program (eg. OmniOutliner.)

4) An image speaks a thousand words. But if you use text, try to use if for creative effect and impact, (see Steve Jobs's presentations) rather than lose your audience while they spend time reading. And think font size to ensure it is readable from the back.

5) Less is more. Only use fancy slide transitions for specific impact, if at all. If you use a sound effect do not compete with it, let it happen and then get your audience back to focus on you.

6) Practice makes perfect. Practice out loud, facing the space of the room not the wall or your laptop screen. You need to use your voice to hear yourself, flex your intonation, decide when to pause and when to amplify.

Pecha Kucha presentations

http://pecha-kucha.org/

Pecha Kucha Night was devised in Tokyo in February 2003 as an event for young designers to meet, network, and show their work in public. It has turned into a massive celebration, with events happening in hundreds of cities around the world, inspiring creatives worldwide. Drawing its name from the Japanese term for the sound of "chit chat", it rests on a presentation format that is based on a simple idea: 20 images x 20 seconds. It's a format that makes presentations concise, and keeps things moving at a rapid pace.

Potentially relevant presentations

Good example of good use of format (re house building/design/engineering)
http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/284

Engineering in Earthquake zones
http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/175

Science inspired design projects
http://pecha-kucha.org/presentations/214

Dance in Science presentations – kinaesthetic learning in action

Dancers vs Powerpoint – TED talk using dancers to explain scientific theory:
http://www.ted.com/talks/john_bohannon_dance_vs_powerpoint_a_modest_proposal.html

And an example from the now annual TED 'Dance your PhD' project – there are many more but from this one you get the drift!
http://blog.ted.com/2011/09/09/dance-your-ph-d-win-a-trip-to-tedxbrussels/

Dance used to portray water crisis science.
http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/culturelab/2012/02/splash-dance-water-crisis-choreography.html