

How to prepare an effective Graphic Abstract and Examples

Thanks for participating in the 2nd Annual Mizzou Musculoskeletal Research Symposium.

Graphical abstracts are due to bakerbre@health.missouri.edu no later than May 1st.

If finished early, please submit early.

These instructions will help you to first create your graphical abstract in PowerPoint and second how to record your 3 minute verbal presentation over the graphical abstract. Like a traditional text-based abstract, a graphic abstract should contain enough information about your subject that the viewer can discern why you did the study, how you did it, and most importantly, what your main outcome was and why it is important.

According to Elsevier, graphical abstracts should:

- capture the content of the paper at a single glance,
- allow readers to quickly understand the take-home message,
- encourage browsing,
- promote interdisciplinary scholarship,
- help readers identify more quickly which papers are relevant to their research interests.

Think of the Graphic Abstract as kind of a mini-poster with minimal text.

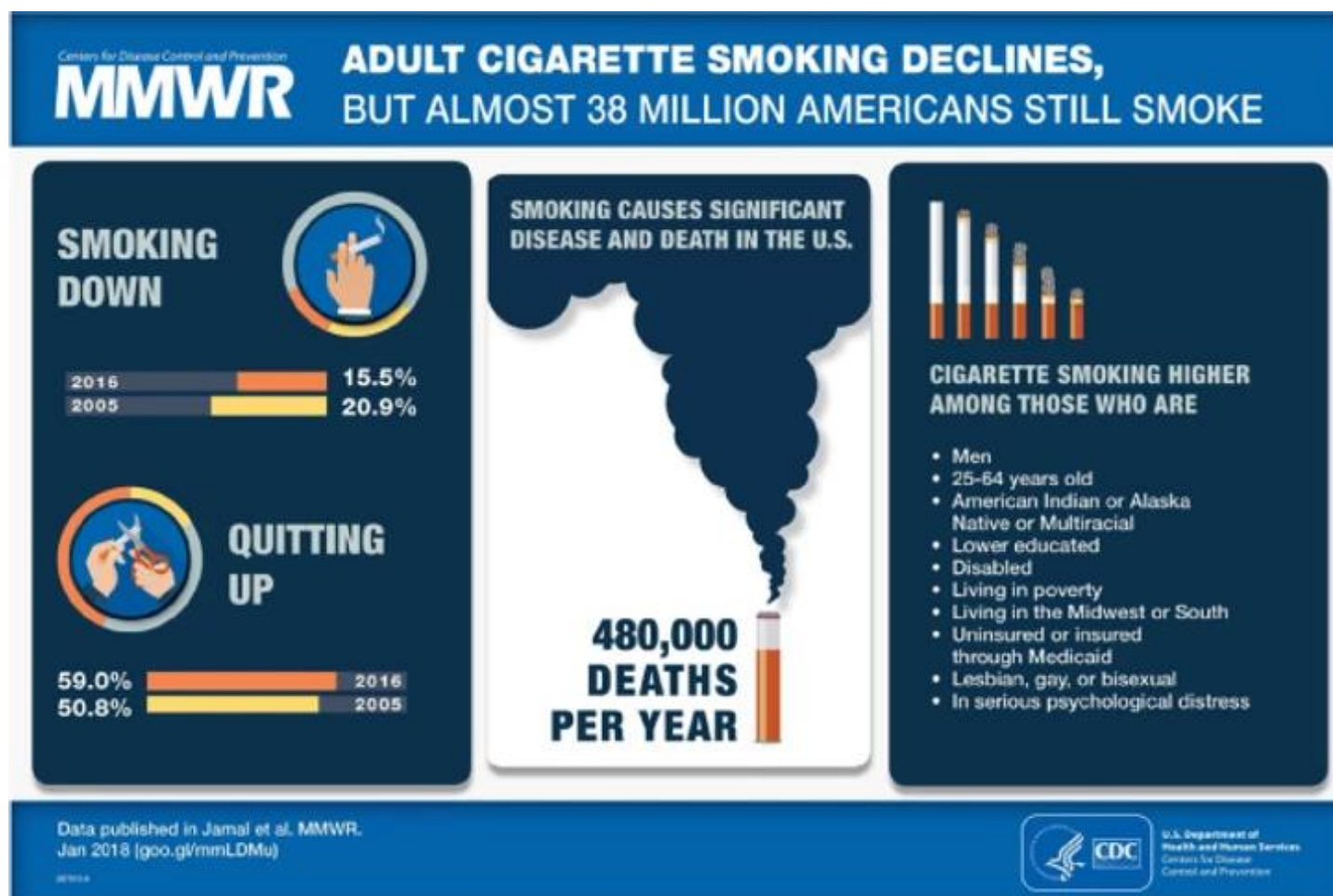
- Start constructing it with the MAIN POINT first and then add the necessary details.
- Use a simple design since this is a smallish graphic. You want to attract readers/viewers to your presentation.
- Make it visually interesting. Use a color scheme that may convey meaning for your subject. Don't make it overly complex or it will be hard to follow.

Common Mistakes (adapted from <https://www.annaclemens.com/blog/make-graphical-abstract-paper>)

1. **Being too vague.** This applies to all parts of your abstract, e.g. what you did, how your results fit into the model, and [why your study is impactful](#)
2. **Using images flippantly.** Every graphic should have a purpose, and a reader should get a general idea of what your article is about from the graphical abstract
3. **Using too much or not enough color.** Color is important as a way of highlighting concepts and flow. It's useful for organization as well. But don't overdo it. [Make sure you are using color with intention.](#)
4. **Too much text.** If your graphical abstract has as much text as your written abstract, it's probably overcrowded.
5. **Not enough white space.** White space is the "breathing room" around any piece of text or image, and it's incredibly important for readers to grasp the content of your graphical abstract quickly. Give everything a bit of space around it and ignore that itch to fill every pixel with something useful.
6. **A graphic abstract should not be just one or two figures from your project.** Remember to convey your main idea and the essential parts for quick viewing. It might make sense to you if you just put in a scatter plot or a cell culture grid, but will your reader/viewer understand this without additional info?

If you would like to present your poster in sections after you show the 1st full version you can, just please aim to stay within the 3 minutes.

Here are two examples of concise graphical abstracts.



How to Record Audio Over Your Graphical Abstract

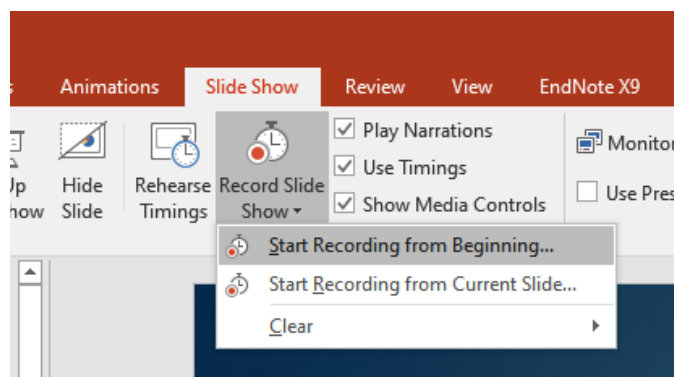
Once you have finished creating the single PowerPoint slide that is your graphical abstract using the tips above, you're ready to record the 3-minute audio file.

1. In PowerPoint go to Slide Show at the top and select Record Slide Show. (Don't see record as an option – see second video link at the bottom).

2. Select "Start Recording from Beginning" and check that the camera icon in the **bottom right corner is not selected (camera is off) and that the microphone icon is selected (microphone is on)**. Hit record in the upper left corner and give it a try. You can pause and re-record if you would like. Please try to keep the presentation to 3 minutes in length.

3. Most of the time PowerPoint will automatically compress the file to save space. You can check on this by going to File, Save As, and clicking on Media Size and Performance (If Media Size and Performance is not found under Save As, check under Info). You do not need to save these as low quality, these files should be somewhere around 4 Mb in size.

4. Lastly, go to File->Save As and save your file with your first and last names in the filename (e.g., Bree_Baker_MSK_Symposium.pwpt).



You do not need to save these as a MP4, please send as a PowerPoint file.

Two Additional Video Resources:

1. <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/video-record-presentations-2570dff5-f81c-40bc-b404-e04e95ffab33>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5dgwwa5XRA>

Three Additional Graphical Abstract Tips/Tricks Resources:

1. <http://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/attract-readers-at-a-glance-with-your-graphical-abstract>
2. <https://www.enago.com/academy/graphical-abstracts-is-the-new-art-trend-going-to-catch-up/>
3. <https://www.methodspace.com/graphical-abstract-examples/>