

Jonathan Sterne, presentation requirements

Requirements:

1. I need to be able to deliver the talk while seated.
2. I greatly prefer a table and normal chair for my presentations. (Rather than a podium and stool.)
3. I need a decent mic and amplification and to be able to hear myself. Stereo is ideal.
4. I need to be able to run audio from my laptop, and control it while delivering the talk into the mic.
5. Please check the room setup ahead of time, before you confirm it will be “no problem” to accommodate me. Most people assume that conditions 1-4 are easy to meet, but it turns out they are surprisingly hard to meet in many university and lecture hall spaces. About half of my talks require some adjustment in the room or accommodation, and often hosts or techs are sent running around at the last minute seeking cables or seating that they don't have handy.

More details: I speak while seated, with either a head mounted mic or a stationary mic on a high-quality (ie, stable) adjustable stand that can be brought close to my mouth.

Seated at a table with a VGA or DVI cable and 1/8" (3.5mm) stereo cable to plug into my laptop is ideal. I often make use of specialized software, and to do so I need to be able to have my own laptop at my fingertips. If the room audio system can only project my voice *or* the audio I want to play out of my laptop, I need to be able to control the switching back and forth myself.

If the room is set up in such a way that to control my own laptop, I must be at a podium, I'll need a **stool of proper height** so that I can sit to deliver the talk. I need a lab-type stool (with a bar for my feet). Avoid stools with hydraulic lifts (they often sink on me). Sturdy trumps fancy.

For very large or boomy spaces, a **stage monitor** (to hear my own voice) helps a lot, but is not essential.

If it is for a small group in a classroom or at a seminar table: I have my own wearable speech amplifier that I can carry with me for seminars.

Also, for any organized meals during the visit, I do much better in less loud restaurants and reception spaces (I don't need absolute quiet), and I'm a **vegetarian** (dairy ok, fish not, dislike eggplant).

I am happy to meet with people (colleagues, students) during otherwise unscheduled time. I don't need much down time on visits.

Changes in the mechanics of my speech from a paralyzed vocal cord have led me to seek these accommodations when giving public talks. It is very difficult for me to declaim continuously, while standing, for the duration of a public lecture. I'll spare you the details in this note, though I am happy to discuss them at length if you (or audiences) are curious. The short version is that cancer ate my right recurrent laryngeal nerve.