

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.
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 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. Lab stools are great. Avoid stools with hydraulic lifts (they often sink on me). Sturdy trumps fancy.

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. Just let me know ahead of time.

Do not assume I will sign a release form for recording or streaming. Ask first. I am sometimes okay with recording for archiving and very occasionally okay with more. I will not sign anything that awards copyright to someone else or your university.

I ask that I present in accessible venues, and that accessibility options are made available for disabled audience members' actual (rather than imagined) access needs.

Also, for any organized meals during the visit: I am a **lactose-intolerant** eggplant-hating **vegetarian**, so vegan is safe, though butter and eggs and some sheep and goat cheese or milk are ok. Also, I do much better in less loud restaurants and reception spaces (I don't need absolute quiet).

I am happy to meet with people (colleagues, students) during otherwise unscheduled time, but may need a bit of downtime during the day.

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. Tl;dr cancer ate my right recurrent laryngeal nerve. I'm also on cancer drugs that mess me up and make me tired but otherwise, they work great.