

Correspondence - Ball



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Keith Ball
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Dear Keith:

Many thanks for your very thoughtful September 26 handwritten letter. It was great to see you, and I am most grateful for your comments on my presentation. I have received them from others as well, but don't seem to do a very good job of responding to the helpful suggestions. However, you've given me a good idea to simplify the slides. My problem is that I use slides primarily as cues for my lecture rather than to impart information. Thus, I tend to dismiss their content and just talk about the ideas from them, thus distracting people from their content, and then going on to the next idea. I think I could do two things: 1) get away from using slides in this fashion and just give myself key words on a piece of paper, or 2) reduce the content of the slides to simple, declarative sentences or slides with much less content. Anyway, you've given me some ideas to attack the problem. As far as my voice falling off, it usually works pretty well when I have good amplification. My natural style is to have a flow of ideas rather than to dwell on a few points well declared.

You're quite right, the quote was from The Tale of Two Cities. I think it's always nice to leave an audience with a little conundrum to test their individual mettle. I thought the Irish put together a splendid conference, and your contribution was right on the mark.

Best personal regards and thanks again for your letter.

Cordially,

[Handwritten signature]

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

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