

TERMS TO USE IN YOUR RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

The following terms occur in ASMS presentations frequently. The translation, given in *italics*, tells what the speaker really means.

- It has long been known that... *I haven't bothered to look up the original reference.*
- ...of great theoretical and practical importance ...*interesting to me.*
- While it has not been possible to provide definite answers to these questions... *The experiments didn't work out, but I figured I could at least get a publication out of it.*
- The XYZ system was chosen as especially suitable to show the predicted behavior. *The fellow in the next lab had some already made up.*
- Three of the samples were chosen for detailed study. *The results on the others didn't make sense and were ignored.*
- High-purity... *Composition unknown except for the exaggerated claims of the supplier.*
- ...handled with extreme care throughout the experiments. *...not dropped on the floor.*
- Typical results are shown. *The best results are shown.*
- Although some detail has been lost in reproduction, it is clear from the original spectrum that... *It is impossible to tell from the spectrum.*
- The agreement with the predicted curve is excellent. *...fair ...good ...poor ...satisfactory ...doubtful ...fair ...imaginary ...as good as could be expected ...non-existent.*
- The most reliable values are those of Jones. *Jones was a student of mine.*
- It is generally believed that... *A couple of other guys think so to.*
- It might be argued that... *I have such a good answer to this objection that I shall now raise it.*
- Much additional work will be required before a complete understanding... *I don't understand it...*
- Correct within an order of magnitude *Wrong.*
- It is to be hoped that this work will stimulate further work in the field. *This paper isn't very good, but neither are any of the others on this miserable subject.*
- Thanks are due to Joe Hoe for assistance with the experiments and to John Doe for valuable discussions. *Hoe did the work and Doe explain what it meant.*

- Preliminary experiments have shown that... *We did it once but couldn't repeat...it.*
- A survey of the earlier literature... I even read through some of last year's journals.
- Careful statistical analysis... *After going though a dozen books, we finally found one obscure test that we could apply.*
- We are excited by this finding. *It looks publishable.*
- We have a tentative explanation. *I picked this up in a hospitality suite last night.*
- We didn't carry out the long-term study. *We like to go home at 5 P.M. What do you think we are, Slaves?*
- We say this with trepidation. *I don't know anything about this.*
- We have repeated So-and so's experiments in our lab. *Brother, were we surprised!*