

## **Creating a Conversational Tone**

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The Iowa State Center for Food Security and Public Health has provided you with a script to accompany the PowerPoint slides on the CD-ROM. While the script gives you the material to cover while talking the audience through the slides, you will want to deliver the material in your own words.

In order to create a conversational speaking tone during the presentation, begin by reading through the script attached to a particular slide. Once you've become familiar with the material, you can identify the major and minor points you want to make while showing this slide. One of the best ways to do this is to jot down an outline of those points. After the sample outline, we've written a "script" of what a person using such an outline might actually say.

### **Original Written Script for Slides from a previous presentation (note the formal language typical of writing)**

[slide 1] At least 17 nations are known to have had a biological weapons program (including 5 implicated as sponsors of International concern). South Africa is one example of those nations. Despite its ratification of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 1975, South Africa pursued an offensive biological weapons (BW) program as part of Project Coast. Dr. Wouter Basson of the Defense Force Medical Service's 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion effectively controlled research and development done under Project Coast, which involved a substantial number of testing, research, and other facilities. The precise scope and results of the BW program remain unclear, but public hearings and court documents mention research on bacterial pathogens, viral pathogens, and toxins. By 1985, South Africa had certainly tested the military utility of a number of toxins. Meanwhile, the government allegedly used anthrax bacteria and botulinum toxin for assassinations and the military is alleged to have used cholera bacteria to contaminate water supplies. No clear evidence exists of either the weaponization or large-scale production of any pathogen or toxin. In 1990, President F.W. de Klerk ordered all work halted on lethal agents.

[slide 2] In 1992 the US became aware of the Soviets complete work with biological weapons. While US officials had long believed that the Soviets had a biological weapons program, the full scope of their work was not recognized until after the breakup of the Soviet Union. When the US was invited to Russia and other Soviet states to help dismantle bioterrorism laboratories, they were stunned by what they found. Moscow had enormous stockpiles of biological weapons including plague, anthrax and smallpox. The US also realized that the Soviet's technology was steps ahead of the US. Great concern also grew from these visits because security was lacking or absent and all of the weapon making equipment and supplies were left unattended. Western officials were further concerned because due to Moscow's economic problems, Soviet scientists may be "bought" by other countries for the expertise in bioweapons.

**Oral Presentation Speaking Outline (note use of key words and use of a larger font to enable greater visibility)**

- 17 nations have potential weapons: 2 examples–slide 1
  - Project Coast, south Africa example (1975)
    - Dr Basson (Defense Force Medical Services 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion) controlled:
      - research
      - testing
      - development
    - Alleged use:
      - anthrax and botulinum–assassinations
      - cholera bacteria–H<sub>2</sub>O contamination
    - 1990 F.W. de Klerk halted work
    - court documents mention bacterial and viral pathogens, toxins
    - No clear evidence of weaponization
- Soviet Union (1992) – slide 2
  - Moscow: huge stockpiles of
    - plague
    - anthrax
    - smallpox
  - Technology advanced
  - Security lacking
  - Economic situation = scientist expertise comprised

**Oral Presentation From the Speaking Notes (notice the change in the flow of language and use of larger font for a delivery manuscript)**

There are seventeen nations believed to have potential biological weapons. Let me tell you about just two examples. The first is Project Coast in South Africa. Despite signing onto the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention of 1975, South Africa continued research, testing, and development of biological agents until the program was discontinued in 1990 by President de Klerk.

Though hard evidence of actual use remains elusive, the South African military certainly had an active program of biological weapons testing. There are serious allegations that the government used agents such as anthrax and botulinum in assassinations and evidence that the military contaminated some water supplies with cholera bacteria.

Though court documents indicate research based on bacterial and viral pathogens as well as various toxins, there is no clear evidence of research with the intent of weaponization.

South Africa is just one example, the U.S. has also been concerned with biological weapons research in the former Soviet Union.

In 1992, U. S. officials visited labs in Russia and other Soviet states and were startled by the sophistication of their biological weapons programs. They found huge stockpiles of plague, anthrax and smallpox in Moscow. What they also found, and this has raised serious concerns, is that security at these facilities was dangerously lax. Because of the continuing poor economic situation in Moscow, there is concern that scientists with expertise in bioweapons may be willing to sell information to other nations. You can see how this poses a legitimate threat.

## **Summary**

- In order to create an oral presentation from the scripts provided, you will need to
- Read the script with care and pick out the main points you wish to emphasize.
- Jot down those main points in a scratch outline.
- Rehearse talking through that outline. While doing so be sure to:
  - take care to explain what audience members will see on the slides.
  - make sure that the information is presented in an organized way.
  - make sure the information is presented with language appropriate for the audience you are addressing.