

Making Impact

Designing effective
presentations

Effective PowerPoint Presentations

- What makes a PowerPoint presentation effective from a design standpoint?
- What do you think are characteristics of ineffectively designed PowerPoint presentations?

Why is Design Important?



Simplicity:
Work to avoid
Information
Overload



Avoiding Information Overload

Example

- Notes function vs information overload on screen
- Studies have shown “More is not better” in terms of using technology to teach
- Avoid Information Overload
 - PowerPoint expert Cliff Atkinson, author of Beyond Bullet Points says, “When you overload your audience, you shut down the dialogue that's an important part of decision-making.”
 - He points to research by educational psychologists: “When you remove interesting but irrelevant words and pictures from a screen, you can increase the audience's ability to remember the information by 189% and the ability to apply the information by 109%.”

Use the notes function to avoid
information overload

More is not necessarily better

Simplicity: Information Overload

- Atkinson:
- "When you remove interesting but irrelevant words and pictures from a screen, you can increase the audience's ability to remember the information by 189% and the ability to apply the information by 109%."

Observe the 6 x 6 guideline

- Follow the 6 x 6 guideline
 - 6 points per slide
 - 6 words per point

There is also the 10/20/30 rule

A PowerPoint presentation should have **10 slides**, last no more than **20 minutes**, and contain **no font smaller than 30 points**

Less is More

- White space is your friend
- Avoid pictures or graphics in background
- Avoid brightly colored backgrounds

Skip the Tricks

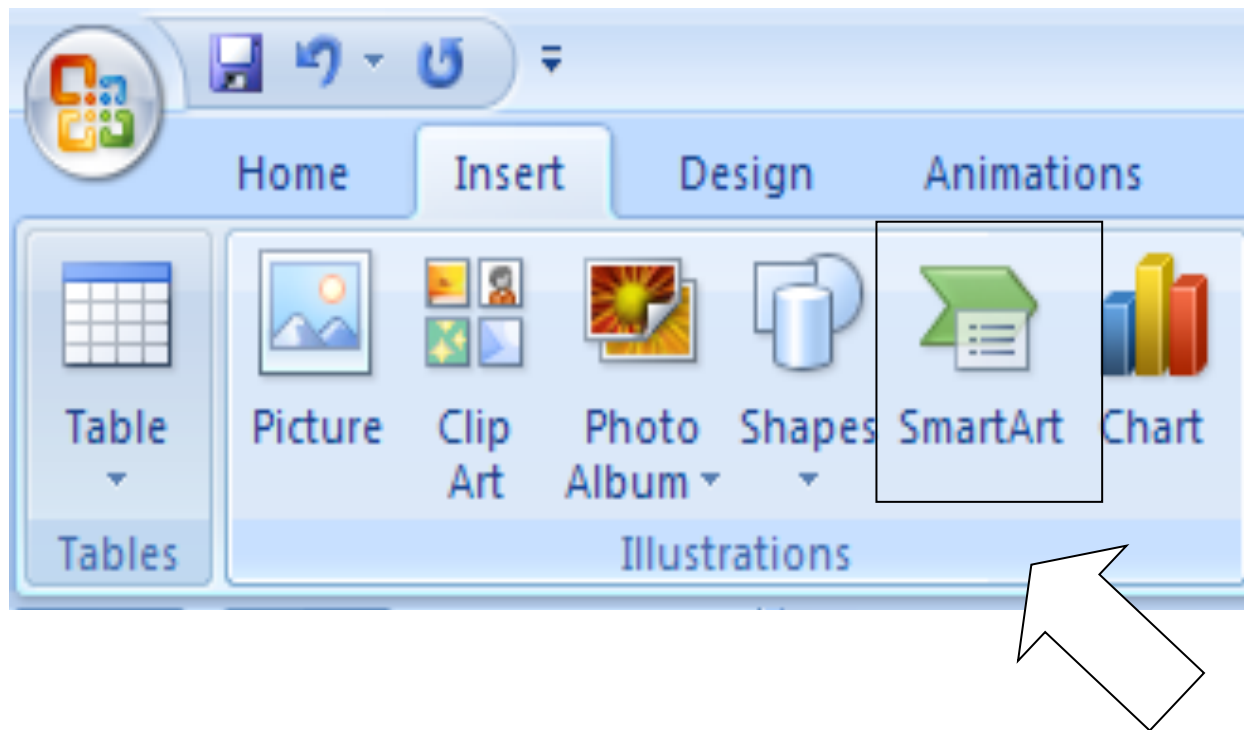
- Minimize or avoid animated texts, sounds, and fancy transitions
- These effects can be effective in certain situations, but often distract your audience from your main points

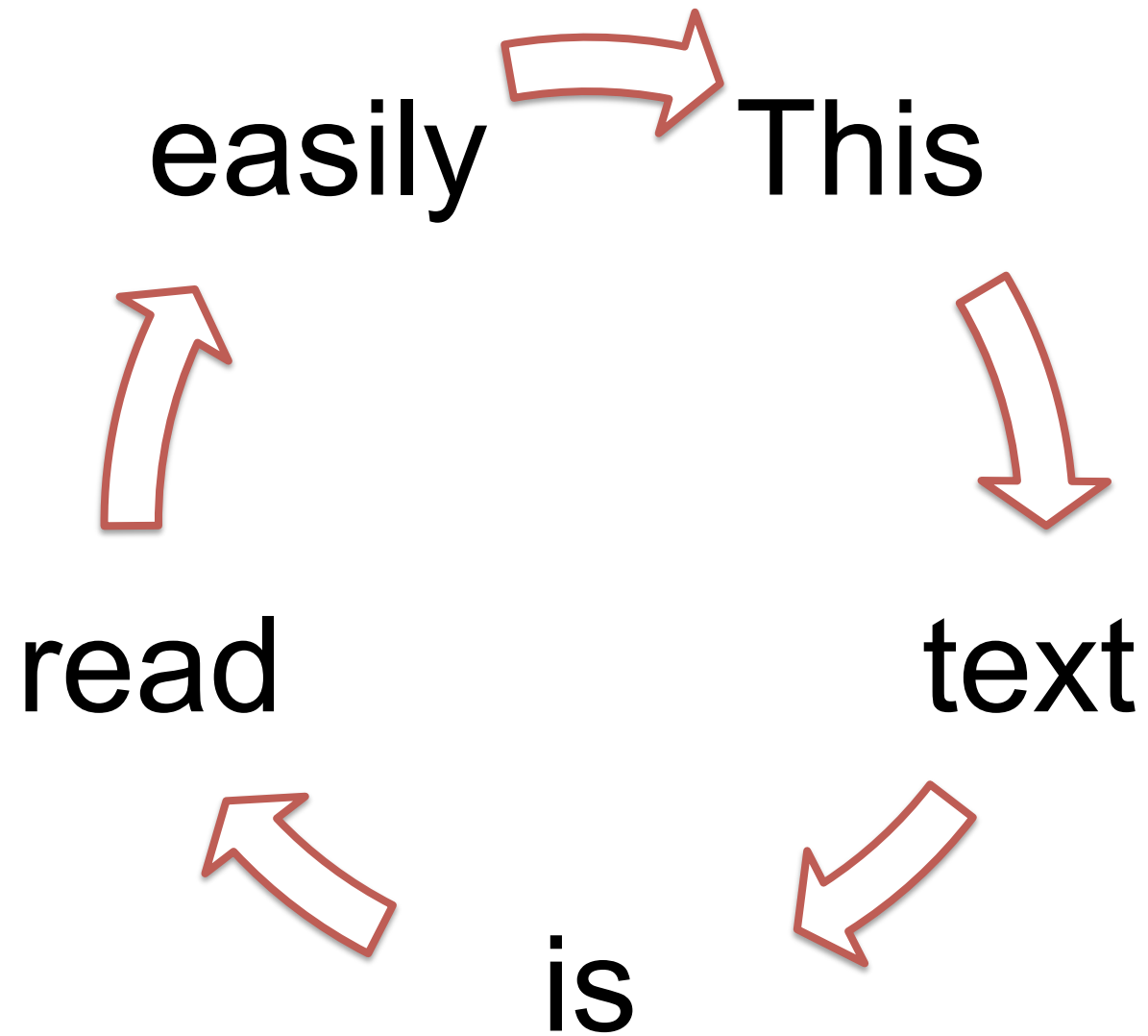
Use graphics wisely

WordArt

Not always your friend

Be smart about graphics, charts, and diagrams





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Use contrast to improve readability

- Strong contrast adds “visual interest” and keeps your students’ attention
- Makes content more attractive
- Highlights the most important concepts
- Difference implies importance

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- Strong **contrast** adds “visual interest” and keeps your students’ attention
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Use **colors** to create contrast

Use **colors** to create contrast

Readability: Repetition

- Repetition involves repeating design concepts on each page
- Creates unity and consistency
- Readers take cognitive clues from consistency in design
-

Nothing should be placed on a
page arbitrarily



Readability: Alignment

- Nothing should be placed on a page arbitrarily



- Every element should have some visual connection with another element on the page

Every object (graphics, photos, or text) should be aligned

Horizontal alignment

- Ideally every object (graphics, photos, or text) should be aligned with other objects
- Includes vertical and horizontal alignment



Vertical alignment

Readability: Proximity

- Group similar items together
 - Similar to paragraphing in writing
- Helps readers organize information
- Using bullets and templates to achieve “proximity” in design
-

Readability: Type Size

- Make sure your fonts are legible and large enough
- “Floor test” for readability
-

Readability: Type Size

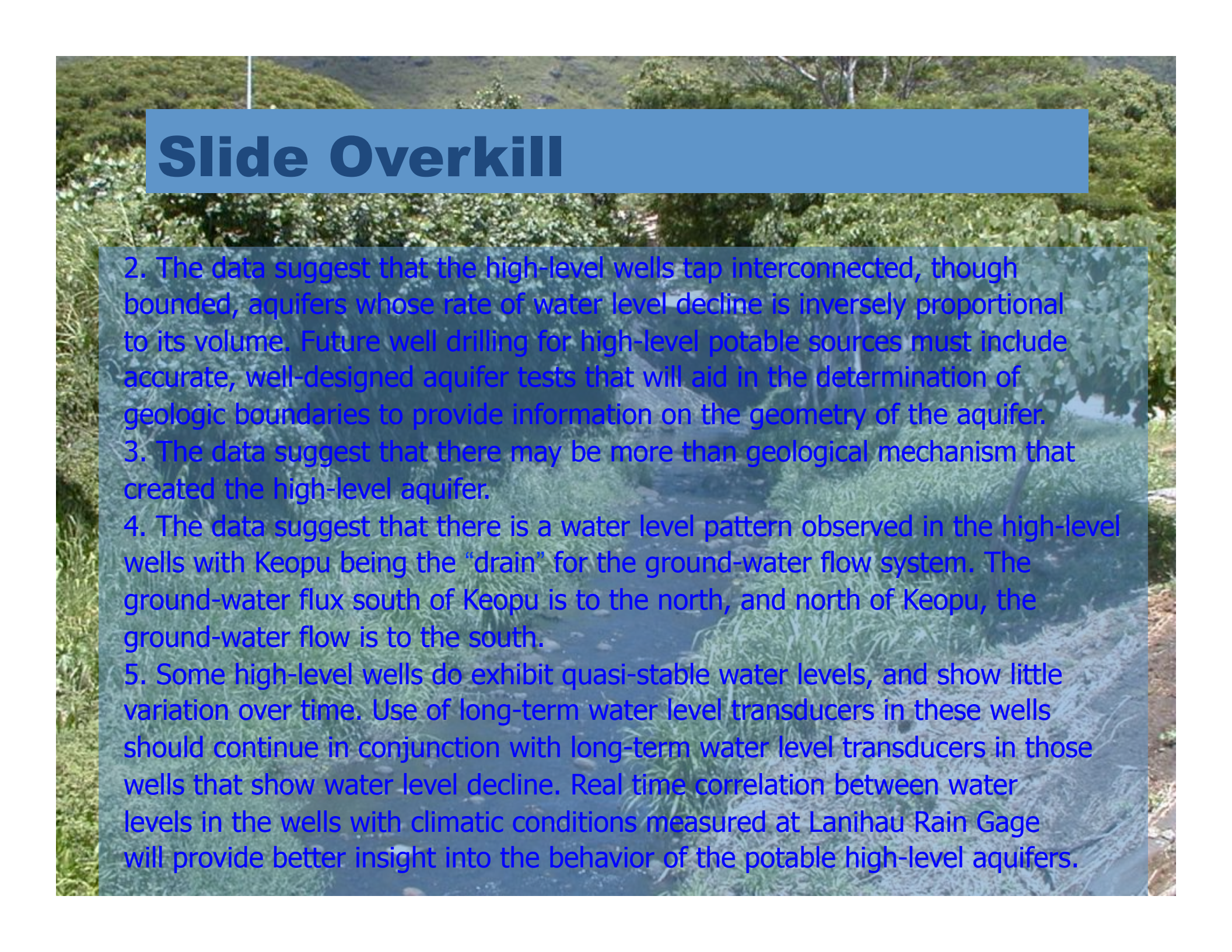
- Preview your presentation in the classroom
- You should be able to read the slides from the back of the room

Readability

**AVOID ALL CAPS! THEY ARE
MUCH HARDER TO READ**

Interactivity: Student Learning

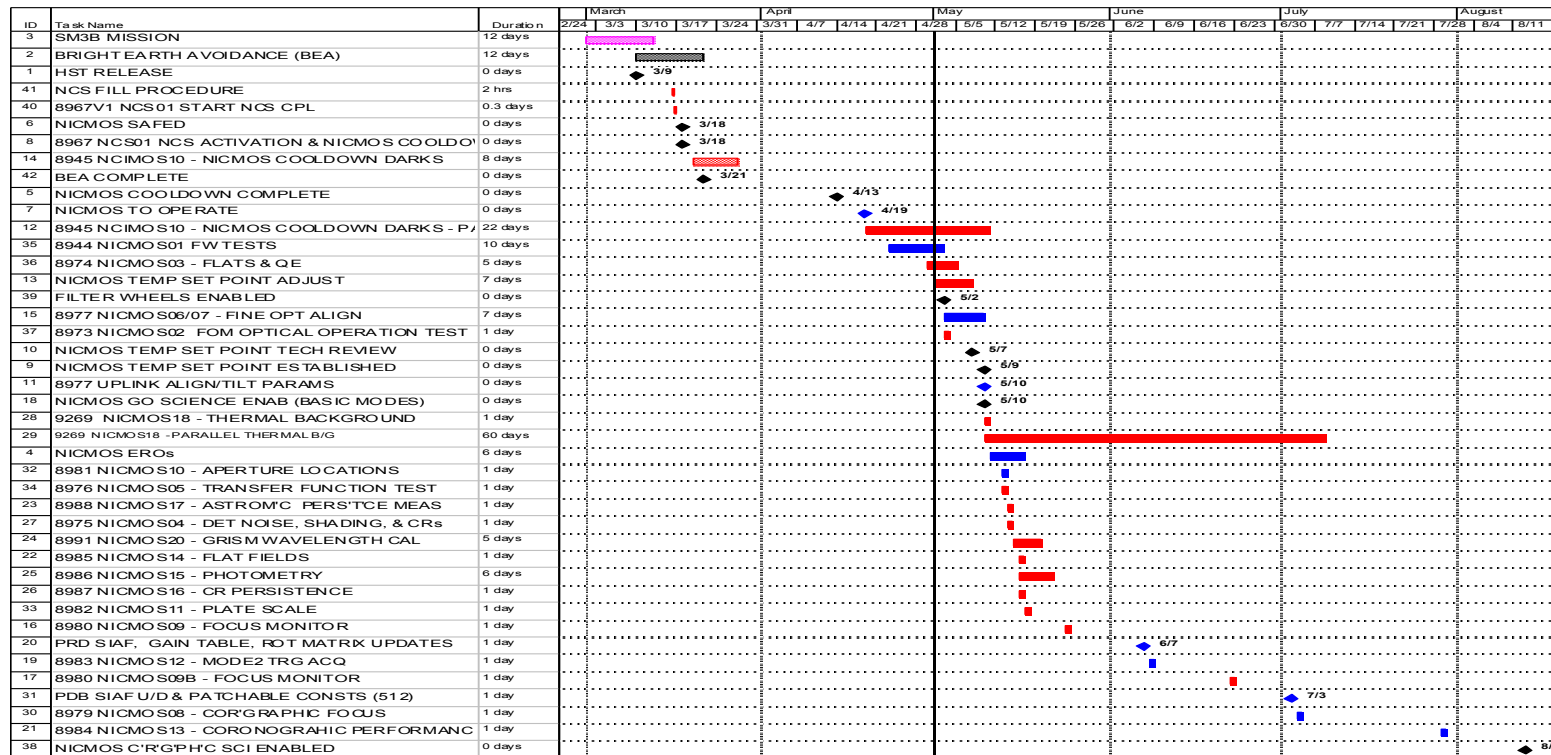
- Inquiry-based learning
- Interactive PowerPoint: An oxymoron?
- Ideas for interactivity
 - Pose questions
 - Fill in responses
 - Have students take notes responding to questions on PPT
 - Post notes to Moodle
- Other ideas to make PPT more interactive?



Slide Overkill

2. The data suggest that the high-level wells tap interconnected, though bounded, aquifers whose rate of water level decline is inversely proportional to its volume. Future well drilling for high-level potable sources must include accurate, well-designed aquifer tests that will aid in the determination of geologic boundaries to provide information on the geometry of the aquifer.
3. The data suggest that there may be more than geological mechanism that created the high-level aquifer.
4. The data suggest that there is a water level pattern observed in the high-level wells with Keopu being the “drain” for the ground-water flow system. The ground-water flux south of Keopu is to the north, and north of Keopu, the ground-water flow is to the south.
5. Some high-level wells do exhibit quasi-stable water levels, and show little variation over time. Use of long-term water level transducers in these wells should continue in conjunction with long-term water level transducers in those wells that show water level decline. Real time correlation between water levels in the wells with climatic conditions measured at Lanihau Rain Gage will provide better insight into the behavior of the potable high-level aquifers.

Inappropriate Use of Tables



Moving Text

- When text appears, we don't want the audience to be watching the animation.
- Use the
 “Appear effect”
Not
 “FANCY EFFECTS”



Fonts and Background Colors

This is a good mix of colors. Readable!

This is a bad mix of colors. Low contrast. Unreadable!

This is a good mix of colors. Readable!

This is a bad mix of colors. Avoid bright colors on white. Unreadable!